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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
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to cast your vote.

44 DAYS without a government budget for FY 2009

INSIDE

Handover
Bush wistfully salutes the nation's veterans as he prepares to hand two ongoing wars over to his successor.

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Out of Line
Aniston says Jolie was out of line when she spilled details about her relationship with Pitt.

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DUE TO WORLDWIDE ECONOMIC CRISIS

Laolao Bay project scaled down

Resort project's completion date pushed back

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With the current worldwide economic crisis, officials from the LaoLao Bay Golf Resort yesterday said they have concerns about completing the multi-million dollar resort project.

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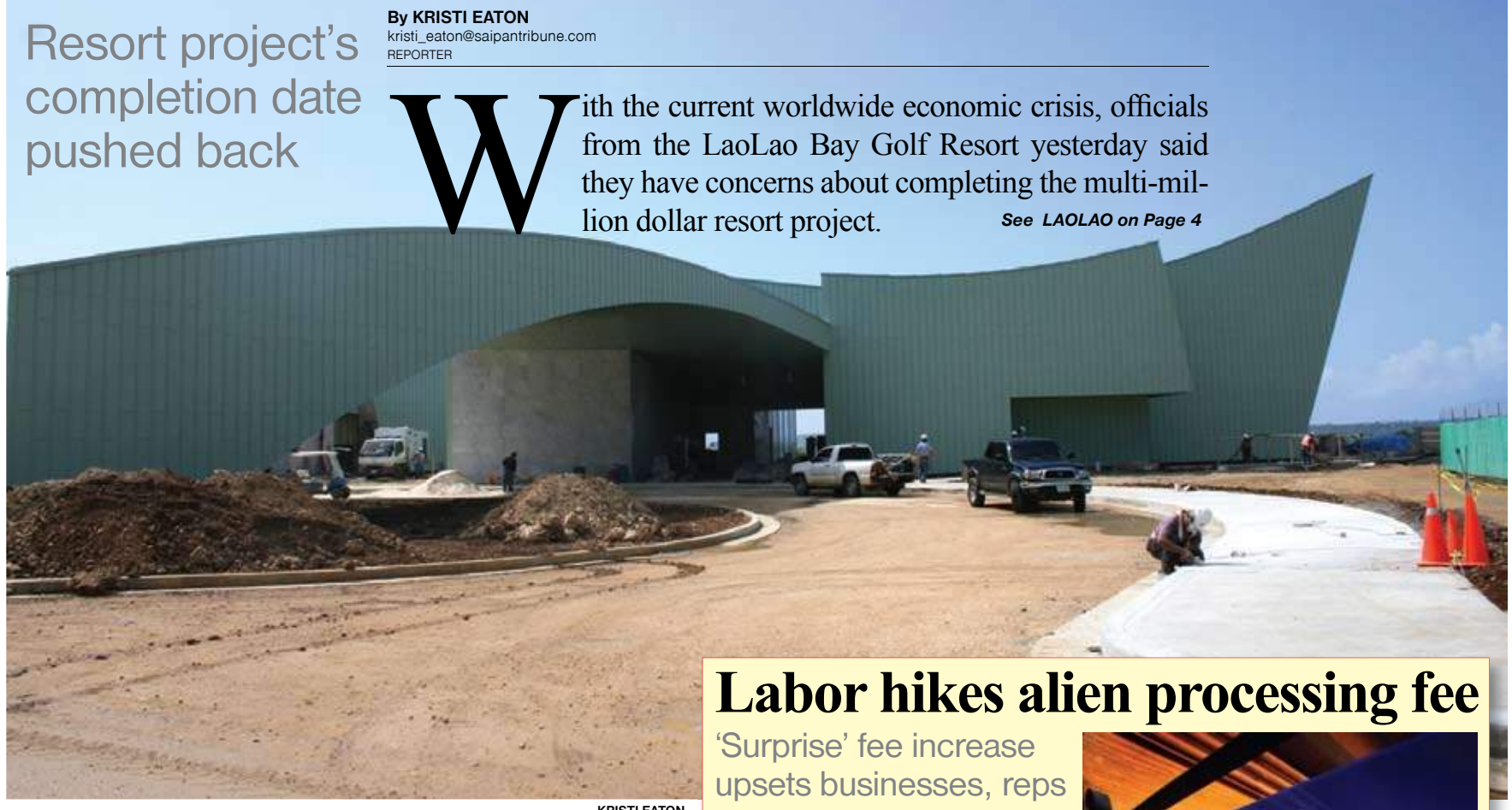


KRISTI EATON
The front side of the new clubhouse. It should be completed by the end of the month.

Camacho takes helm at CPA

Engineer Efrain F. Camacho has assumed office as executive director of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

Camacho in a phone interview yesterday said his appointment became effective on Monday, Nov. 10, 2008. He will serve a term of one year.

Camacho said he has put his company, EFC Engineers and Architects, on hold to avoid any appearance of conflict of interest. "It's inactive," Camacho said of his company, which had done several projects for CPA in the past.

Camacho

In August, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial appointed Camacho to take over CPA, following the retirement of then acting executive director Lee Cabrera. At the time, CPA was under a state of emergency because it was on the verge of a technical default on its $20-million airport bond indenture.

But the appointment became the

See CAMACHO on Page 4

Labor hikes alien processing fee

'Surprise' fee increase upsets businesses, reps

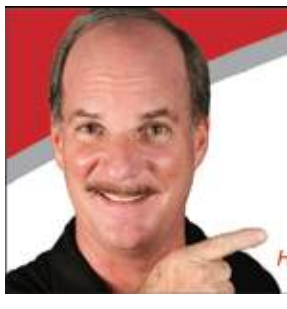
By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Labor sprung a surprise on businesses yesterday afternoon, increasing the application processing fee for alien workers and causing confusion and drawing complaints from some businesses and their representatives, who said they were not informed of the price hike beforehand.

A voucher form showed to *Saipan Tribune* by a business representative yes-

See LABOR on Page 4

File photo shows workers conducting transactions at the Department of Labor's Processing Unit at the Afetna Square Building in San Antonio.
SAIPAN TRIBUNE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Snapshots from Veterans Day Rites

Photos by
NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial delivers his welcome address.

World War II Bomb Wing officer Anthony Praxel, fourth from right, joins two other Vietnam War veterans, Brian Notzon and Bruce Petty, during the Veterans Day ceremonies at the American Memorial Park on Nov. 11, 2008.

CNMI's first ever Delegate-elect to the U.S. Congress, Gregorio "Kilili" Sablan, makes his presence felt at the Veterans Day ceremonies at the American Memorial Park on Nov. 11, 2008.

World War II Bomb Wing officer Anthony Praxel shakes hands with Lt. Gov. Tim Villagomez as he receives a certificate of recognition. Looking on are Gov. Benigno Fitial, VFW Post 3457 Commander Mariano Fajardo, first lady Josie Fitial and Margaret Villagomez (the last two partly hidden).

Gov. Benigno Fitial and Maj. Gen. Stepehn D. Tom, Chief of Staff of the U.S. Pacific Command, lead the laying of wreaths.

The Pacific Winds Concert Band leads the singing of the U.S. National Anthem and CNMI Anthem.

Gov. Benigno Fitial and Maj. Gen. Stepehn D. Tom are flanked by some of the veterans and other top government officials.

A U.S. Army unit performs a 21-gun salute to honor all veterans, past and present, during the Veterans Day ceremonies at the American Memorial Park on Nov. 11, 2008.

The Saipan Southern High School JROTC Cadets, Manta Ray Battalion, enjoy the fun as they gather for a picture taking after the Veterans Day ceremonies at the Court of Honor of the American Memorial Park on Nov. 11, 2008.

Local

Fitial justifies continued emergency declarations

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has justified his continued use of disaster declarations to address the Commonwealth's power problems, saying "we are still in crisis."

Fitial in a letter to the Legislature said the continuing power outages, although sporadic, are proof of the problems still besetting the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

"Although the Aggreko generators provided us with substantial relief, we must not be lulled into a sense of complacency," Fitial told legislative leaders. "Make no mistake, we are still in a crisis situation with our public utilities and we have a very limited time frame to resolve this crisis and avert the kind of rolling blackouts we experienced last summer."

The governor wrote the letter amid lawmakers' concerns about his use of emergency powers to deal with CUC's problems. A resolution recently adopted by the House of Representatives requests the governor to issue a full and detailed report to the Legislature on actions taken and funds used to address the disaster emergency described in numerous executive orders. The resolution also calls on Fitial to present a plan to the Legislature, including a financial strategy, for addressing the present state of disaster emergency.

"I know the Legislature is concerned about our need to use disaster declarations to address the terrible problems with have with CUC's power plant engines and transformers," Fitial's letter says, adding that such needs were addressed in Executive Order 2008-20, the latest extension to the emergency declaration, which the governor issued last week.

The letter continues, "Unfortunately, two of the conditions I anticipated came to pass—a major engine failure and a major transformer failure. Extraordinary measures may continue to be necessary to solve extraordinary problems. I hope we can work together on the solutions because we have less than a year to rehabilitate our existing capacity and discontinue the use of the temporary Aggreko units."

In the House resolution, the lawmakers note that the situation at CUC appears to be worsening despite nearly three years of the utility being under the direct control of the governor. They also maintain that the governor has failed to present a plan to the Legislature to address the management, operational, and infrastructural challenges facing CUC. Further, they say the governor has failed to deliver full and detailed reports on the money that have been diverted to cope with the emergencies.

New law eases claims for disability benefits

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has signed into law a bill that eases the process of claiming disability retirement benefits.

Under the new law, a person who wants to claim disability retirement benefits no longer needs to be evaluated by a vocational rehabilitation counselor. But the law includes a requirement of evaluation by two physicians, one of whom is a specialist in the area of the disability being evaluated.

"Although I believe the inclusion of a vocational rehabilitation counselor is still necessary and more foolproof than excluding one, the requirement of a specialized physician is sufficient to deter excessive abuse by claimants," the governor said in his message to the Legislature.

Proponents of the bill say the previous requirements were too difficult to meet, as counselors at the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation lack medical and psychiatric expertise or credentials to issue disability certifications. This situation, they add, has created a hardship for OVR, for the retirees, and for the Retirement Fund.

The proponents also maintain that the two-physician requirement is enough to protect against abuses and fraud.

Fitial had vetoed a previous version of the bill, which he said allowed for potential abuses by claimants and threatened the assets of the NMI Retirement Fund. The Legislature amended the language of the bill and sent the legislation back to the governor.

"[D]rastically lowering the standards and requirements to be declared permanently disabled…would have resulted in the certification of an increased number of disabled retirees, and thereby increasing the liability of the NMIRF," Fitial explained on the earlier version of the bill.

"The legislation neither required an examination of a claimant by a physician specializing in the field of the disability being evaluated, nor did it require the examination by a vocational rehabilitation counselor. Ultimately, NMIRF could have been compensating claimants who are not truly permanently disabled," he added.

PTI donates phones to CHC

PTI recently replaced some of the missing and damaged hospital room phones at the Commonwealth Healthcare Center, thanks in part to the support of the CHC Volunteers Association.

Longtime CHC Volunteers Association president Kimberly Prinz-Coats is familiar with the facility's needs and she was happy to receive the much needed phones from PTI.

"We really needed these phones and all we had to do was ask John [Mantanona] and he came through again," she said.

Once PTI Business Sales Manager John Mantanona received Prinz-Coats' call, he immediately had his team identify the units and readied them for the hospital.

"It was never a matter of if we were going to help the CHC Volunteers; it was just a matter of locating the phones and taking care of the organization that does so much to care for everyone at the hospital," he said. "We were so pleased to be able to assist them."

This was not the first time that PTI donated phones to the hospital. The CHC Volunteers previously received a number of phones from PTI but many of them had either become damaged due to frequent use by patients and visitors or went missing. The new phones are specially programmed so that they will not work outside the hospital to prevent theft.

The CHC Volunteers are always accepting donations from the community.

"If anyone wants to make a donation to the CHC Volunteers all they have to do is call us at the hospital or drop by the gift shop and let one of us know," Prinz-Coats said. ***(PTI)***

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PAL said eyeing Manila-Saipan flights

Philippine Airlines has announced a plan to launch flights to Saipan, but the Commonwealth Ports Authority says no formal talks are underway between PAL and CPA.

Philippine News Agency, a state-run news wire service, reported last week that the Philippine flag carrier will use some of its new jets on flights to Saipan, as well as key U.S. cities such as San Diego, Chicago, New York, and Seattle.

But in a phone interview yesterday, newly appointed CPA executive director Efrain F. Camacho said he was not aware of any such plans by PAL. "It doesn't mean they have not done anything toward that goal. Other people may know about it. I just hadn't heard of it yet," said Camacho, who took the top management post at CPA on Monday.

"But that's good news indeed, if it's true," he added.

PNA, in the Nov. 4 report, said PAL is spending $1.4 billion on new aircraft, a move that make the airline's fleet one of the youngest in the region. The fleet upgrade program is expected to be completed before the end of this year. ***(Agnes E. Donato)***

LAOLAO

From Page 1

The project has been scaled down and the completion date pushed back to deal with the economic situation, said Yun Kim, president of the company.

"As you know, the big issue is fundraising," he said.

When asked if the project will be completed he said, "I am worried about that, especially with the financial crisis all over the world," he said.

"But we will try to finish, to complete the construction," he added.

Tetsuya Matsunaga, director and general manager, agreed.

"In general, we will do our best," he said.

In 2007, Asiana Airlines's mother company, Kumho Asiana, acquired the sprawling LaoLao Bay Golf Resort in Kagman from its previous owner, United Micronesian Development Association.

The total investment to the resort has been reduced from $68 million to $60 million, Nearly $17 million has already been invested, Kim said.

The original date of completion was planned for July 1, 2009, but now Kim said the company is aiming for the end of 2009.

He said there are "fiscal issues" because of the declining value of the Korean won. Daewoo E&C, a subcontractor, exchanges Kumho's Korean won to the U.S. dollar for construction.

The original plans for the resort have been scaled down to accommodate the economic obstacles.

The "golftel," which will have two wings, has been scaled down from more than 100 condos to 73. It will stand eight stories on the west side and nine stories on the east side. There will now be five villas as opposed to the seven originally planned, and one clubhouse is being constructed instead of three. An existing clubhouse is being retrofitted to connect to the new clubhouse. It should be completed by the end of the month.

As originally planned, there will be a swimming pool and staff quarters. There will also be a tee house.

Portions of the golf course will be lengthened in an effort to attract professional golfers from Asia.

The company has found some creative ways to save money. For example, several banisters in the clubhouse are painted to look like they are created out of marble, when they are in fact concrete. Painters were brought in to create the look of marble.

Charles Reyes, press secretary for the Governor's Office, said the administration was not expecting the project to be scaled down but understands given the economic situation.

"I suppose that's not what we expected," Reyes said. "Of course, we want as much investment as expected, but we understand the depreciation of the won…has impacted the project."

KRISTI EATON

The backside of the almost-completed clubhouse. The old clubhouse is connected to the new one.

KRISTI EATON

Construction is still progressing at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort. But due to financial difficulties, the project has been scaled back.

That it is why it is imperative the government provide as many incentives to investors as possible, he added.

The news of the scale back is "a further illustration of our concern" about the resolution proposed by Rep. Ray N. Yumul, urging the Commonwealth Development Authority to deny a request to add benefits under the qualifying certificate program to Saipan LauLau Development, a subsidiary of Kumho Asiana.

Kim said he was surprised by Yumul's legislation and that much of the information in the legislation was inaccurate. Kim said the company has not been given relief from all applicable taxes except for alcohol, as Yumul stated.

Saipan Laulau must also contribute $150,000 to public health and education every year for 25 years before receiving the tax rebate. Kim said if sales numbers increase over the past three years there would be a rebate.

"If business is no good, no rebate," he added.

Kim said he appreciates that the CNMI administration is trying to help.

"This is a very good project for the CNMI to invest in outside investors," he said.

Health advocates share info with lawmakers

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A handful of lawmakers were on hand at yesterday's legislative breakfast to learn about diabetes and home health care.

Approximately 10 lawmakers gathered with students from the Public School System to listen to health advocates share data and stories.

Representatives from Marianas Health Services, Inc., the Commonwealth Diabetes Coalition, the Public School System and the Diabetes Prevention Program were on hand to share their knowledge.

Lynn Tenorio, a member of the Diabetes Coalition, presented data on the impact diabetes plays locally.

Diabetes, along with hypertension and heart disease, are the three most common non-communicable diseases on Saipan, she said, and 70 percent of all patients at the Commonwealth Health Center are diagnosed with diabetes.

One of the main things people can do to prevent diabetes is weight control, Tenorio said.

"There's nothing we can do about our genes, but we can certainly do something about our weight," she said.

"Medicine is not a cure all," she added. "It's not the magic pill."

November is National Home Health Care Month and National Diabetes Prevention and Awareness Month. The breakfast is one of several activities scheduled for the month of November. Today and tomorrow there will be a Pacific Health Care Conference at Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan.

CAMACHO

From Page 1

topic of controversy after reports (not in this newspaper) surfaced that Camacho was to be paid $170,000. Concerns were also raised about EFC Engineers' work for CPA. Camacho resigned after less than three weeks on the job.

In an open letter, Camacho denied the report about his compensation, saying his meetings with Fitial and the CPA board did not include talks of him potentially receiving anything more than the salary cap established by law for a licensed professional engineer such as himself.

"My interest in the position of executive director for CPA was based on my sincere desire to help CPA and the community. It was never my intention to seek any personal advantages from the public office to which I had been appointed," the letter said.

CPA recently announced the appointment of three key officials—Ed Mendiola as the new Saipan airport manager, Mary Ann Lizama as the new Saipan seaport manager, and Joe Bermudes as the new staff attorney. ***(Agnes E. Donato)***

LABOR

From Page 1

terday afternoon indicated that the renewal of an alien employee now costs employers a total of $350—a $75 increase over the previous $275.

The increase is in the alien fee, which is now $300 from the previous $225. The $25 immigration fee and $25 entry fee remain the same.

Bobbie Sablan, the Labor Administrative Services Manager, told *Saipan Tribune* that they implemented the increase effective yesterday afternoon pursuant to amendments to regulations under Public Law 15-108.

When asked why the increase was not announced to the media prior to its implementation, Sablan said she cannot comment on that.

Sablan explained that the initial regulations for the new labor reform law, Public Law 15-108, took effect on Feb. 1, 2008.

"From that regulation on Feb. 1, we had an amendment. We did an amendment to the first regulation. We published it and this new regulations became effective Nov. 1, 2008," she said.

"In these amendments to the regulations, we have a couple—just a very few—that increased the fees," she said.

With the amendments, she said, businesses right now will pay $300 instead of the amount that was previously in the first regulations in February, $250.

"The fee for an approved contract for businesses is $300. For non-business employers, it's $250; that didn't change," she said.

Sablan said the increase was actually supposed to take effect on Nov. 1, 2008. "But apparently, things didn't go as planned. And we just implemented it this afternoon," she said.

Sablan said the proposed amendments were published in the Commonwealth Register on Sept. 25, 2008, for 30 days.

She declined to explain why Labor increased the fee.

"We did post signs on the fees and apparently today, yes, it's up there. It's posted within…why it was not out in the papers I really cannot comment," she said.

Another business representative said many businesses and their representatives who went to Labor were shocked upon learning of the unannounced increase.

"Many left Labor because their checks or money were not enough," a business representative said.

He said he had to use his own money to process the papers because his employer is off-island.

"They should have announced it [increase] in the newspapers before implementing it so businesses can prepare. They said it was published on the Register and their website. Who reads the Register's publication and Labor's website?" he asked.

A businessman said he submitted a comment on the proposed regulations, but it was not published.

Saipan Tribune obtained a copy of an e-mail exchange between Sablan and Labor Deputy Secretary Cinta Kaipat that was posted at the window of the Labor Processing Section.

In the e-mail dated Monday, Nov. 10, 2008, Sablan told Labor officials that they should put up a sign and inform the public about the increase. Sablan also suggested coming up with a small notice in the newspapers.

In her e-mail response to Sablan on the same day, Monday, Kaipat explained that the fees have already been published in the Commonwealth Register when the labor regulations were proposed and published.

"The fees are effective Nov. 1. Eloy [Finance Secretary Inos] was promised that they would be effective Nov. 1. Please do not hold this up. Publish a reminder if you wish, but do not hold up charging the fees," Kaipat said.

Micronesia postmasters get ready for holidays

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Representatives of the different post offices in the Micronesian region are wrapping up today their two-day meeting on Saipan with officials from the United States Postal Service as part of preparations for the Christmas holidays.

"We want to make sure that their mail and packages would be delivered on time," said Leo Tudela, Director of the Asia-Pacific Relations of Global Business, USPS, based in Honolulu and Washington D.C.

Tudela said they have been doing this joint USPS/Freely Associated States Postal Service Christmas Operations Meeting every year. This time, the meeting is being held at the Chamolinian Room of the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

"We have been holding this kind of preparations every month of November. All areas, including all four states of the Federated States of Micronesia [Chuuk, Pohnpei, Kosrae, and Yap], Palau, Marshall Islands, Guam and the CNMI are represented," Tudela said.

Representing the CNMI is Hector Medina, Postmaster of the Saipan Post Office.

Other participants are Glen Sakagawa, Senior Plant Manager of USPS in Honolulu; Randall Sobol, Operations Analyst USPS Honolulu/Washington D.C.; Brian Wessling, Director Airport/Cargo Operations; and Sam Shinohara, Finance Director, Continental Micronesia Airlines Guam; Len Isitoff, General Manager, Guam Micronesia, Matson Navigation; Steve Bassack, Postal Inspector Guam USPS; Heran Bellu, Postmaster General, Marshall Islands; and Ponciano Materne, Postmaster General Palau.

"We did a good job in delivering the packages and mail last year because of these kinds of preparations. We foresee that we can have a smooth flow this time except that we cannot predict the weather," Tudela said.

Guam and Saipan have the biggest volume of deliveries in the region, but there is no available data.

Tudela said they expect a drop in volume in all the areas this time due to the current financial crisis around the world.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Representatives of the different post offices in the Micronesian region and officials from the United States Postal Service pose inside the Chamolinian Room of the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

USPS *sees huge drop in deliveries due to crisis*

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The United States Postal Service experienced a huge drop in deliveries as a result of the economic slowdown, reporting a drop of about nine billion pieces in the number of mail and packages it has handled so far this year.

Leo Tudela, director for Asia-Pacific Relations, Global Business, USPS based in Honolulu and Washington D.C., said this decline represents a 9-percent drop in deliveries.

Tudela, who is here on Saipan for a two-day meeting of postmasters from countries belonging to the Freely-Associated States, said the USPS usually ships about 40 percent of the 212 billion pieces of mail parcels that go through the worldwide mail system every year.

He said the drop is also due to the increased cost of delivering mail these days. For instance, Tudela said, a rise of just a penny in the price of gasoline translates to a cost of $8 million for USPS. This is because USPS uses about 225,000 vehicles to deliver the mail.

Another big threat to USPS is the Internet phenomenon, especially for first class deliveries, which Tudela said is still the major core of business.

First class deliveries account for about 60 percent of USPS' income while delivery of catalogs and other advertising materials—also a major revenue source for USPS—has about 30 percent share.

While it is true that the deliveries of packages have been increasing due to the upsurge of people ordering all sorts of products via the World Wide Web, Tudela said the Internet boom has a bigger negative impact because of the big drop in the delivery of first class mails.

"It has really a very heavy toll not only in the U.S. but also in other parts of the world," Tudela said.

Asked if they have plans to increase rates, Tudela assured that there would be no adjustments—at least for now. This is primarily because of the new mandate of the law, which says that these prices can increase on average no more than the rate of inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index. The Postal Service plans to provide 90 days' notice of new prices each year, to help mailers prepare for any change.

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Villagomez says media 'corrupted' community

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez said the relentless media coverage of his indictment has "corrupted the community," making it harder to empanel a fair and impartial jury.

The extensive media coverage in the case has also created "an air of prejudice" against public officials of the CNMI, he said in another motion filed in federal court.

For this reason, Villagomez, through his lawyer, David J. Lujan, is proposing a jury questionnaire to assist the court, the prosecution and the defense in selecting a fair and impartial jury.

The Guam-based lawyer said the jury questionnaire would serve as a more efficient tool to unearth bias and prejudice than oral questioning in court, and may also expedite the jury selection process.

"This is especially true in this case, considering that defendant is a well known public figure and the second highest ranking government official in the Commonwealth," he said.

Furthermore, Lujan noted, Villagomez is also associated with the ongoing power/electricity issues plaguing the CNMI.

Other jurisdictions, the lawyer said, have allowed the use of a jury questionnaire when appropriate to weed out bias and prejudice, especially in a high profile case such as Villagomez's.

Villagomez has filed a separation motion to dismiss the indictment on grounds that the U.S. government's conduct in bringing the charges against him was "outrageous."

The lieutenant governor also filed another motion to dismiss by asserting that the indictment is defective as the allegations in the conspiracy charge are time-barred.

The indictment charged Villagomez, former Commerce Secretary James Santos, his wife Joaquina Santos, and former Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Anthony Guerrero, with fire fraud, conspiracy to defraud the U.S., and theft concerning federal funds.

Except for Guerrero, all defendants have pleaded not guilty.

Man is arrested for alleged 'ice' trafficking

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Detectives and members of the Local Drug Enforcement Task Force arrested Monday afternoon a man who was allegedly involved in trafficking methamphetamine or "ice" on Saipan.

Zhen Hua Guo, 39, alias Brother, allegedly tried to elude the arresting team by driving a moped in Chalan Piao.

Guo, a Chinese, was arrested for trafficking of a controlled substance and illegal possession of a controlled substance.

Guo was taken to the Superior Court yesterday for a bail hearing. Associate Judge David Wiseman imposed a $30,000 cash bail for the defendant's temporary liberty.

Preliminary hearing was set for Nov. 19.

Detective Norman S. Rasiang stated in his report that on Oct. 31, 2008, detectives and members of the Local Drug Enforcement Task Force managed to buy $150 worth of "ice" from Guo using a "confidential source" near a gasoline station in Chalan Piao.

Last Monday afternoon, authorities again used the "confidential source" for a controlled buy-bust operation against Guo in Chalan Piao.

After the defendant allegedly handed over $200 worth of "ice" to the "confidential source" at the parking lot of Sherwood, he drove south using a moped.

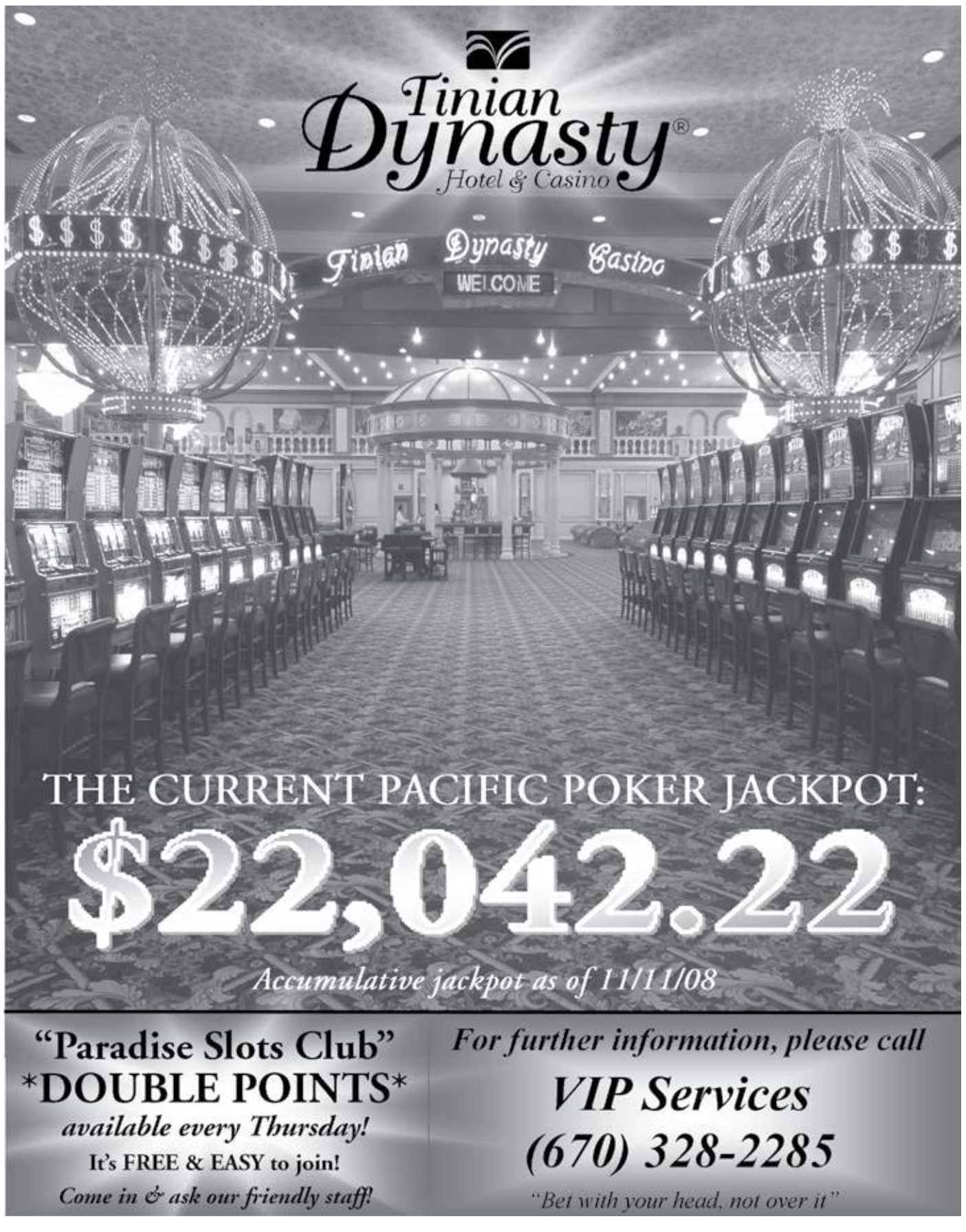
The surveillance team blocked Guo, but the defendant crossed the road and headed south on the shoulder of the southbound lane.

The arresting team allegedly saw Guo throwing out money from his pocket onto the shoulder of the southbound lane. A detective managed to recover $200 in marked money on the grassy area adjacent to the shoulder of the southbound lane.

The arresting team managed to block the moped and arrest Guo.

Last Friday, detectives and members of the Local Drug Enforcement Task Force also arrested a Chinese couple on illegal drug charges.

Zhauo Fan Zhang was detained for trafficking "ice" while his wife, Ying Lian Yao, was apprehended for possession of "ice."



BIRTHDAY GREETINGS CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday greetings go out to Linda Ada of Country House Restaurant, who is celebrating her birthday today, Nov. 13, 2008. "Happy, happy birthday to you, Linda. More power and may God bless you always." Greetings come from the Wild West Staff and your loving family.

Baha'i group marks birth date of prophet-founder

The Nov. 12th anniversary of the birth of Baha'u'llah, prophet-founder of the Baha'i Faith, was celebrated in Guam and on Saipan Tuesday evening, Nov. 11, in Baha'i homes or at Baha'i centers.

Baha'u'llah, (Ba-Ha-oo-La) whose given name was Mirza Husayn-Ali, was born into Persian nobility in Tehran in 1817. He turned his attentions to the needy rather than accepting a position as the Shah's minister and became known as the Father of the Poor. His followers are known as Baha'is.

Baha'u'llah's teachings center on the oneness of God, the oneness of religion and the oneness of humankind. Baha'u'llah taught that to achieve world unity and peace, man must abandon his prejudices and learn to see himself as a world citizen. And that to achieve peace requires a change of human nature—there must be transformation of the moral values and instincts of man.

There are about 300 Baha'is in the Marianas Islands and close to six million worldwide. According to the Encyclopedia Britannica, the Baha'i Faith is the most widespread religion in the world after Christianity and one of the fastest growing. The World Center of the religion was established in Haifa, Israel, when Baha'u'llah was exiled to the area known then as Palestine. For more information, visit http://www.bahai.org or the Marianas National Baha'i office on O'Brien Drive at 472-9100. ***(PR)***

Packages for troops soon ready for shipment

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Operation Home Front Support is about ready to send packages for CNMI soldiers in the U.S. Armed Force who are deployed around the world.

The packages include canned food, drinks, snacks, as well as letters to the individual men and women.

Education specialist Geri Lynn Willis and Fred Camacho of the Troops-To-Teachers Program received yesterday back issues of *Saipan Tribune* to be included in the package.

The project was launched two months ago.

Willis said they expect to compete the packaging at the end of this month and these would be brought to the post office by that time.

The post office will then be sending them to their destinations in the first week of December in time for Christmas Day.

"We are trying to reach everyone of them [troops]," Willis said.

For this special project, those who know the address of a military man or woman may contact Willis or Camacho at troops2teachers@hotmail.com or 237-3287.

Camacho said they had been able to collect an abundant amount of donations from individuals and companies.

They are targeting around 250-300 care packages.

The Operation Home Front Support started the drive to send care packages to all CNMI military men and women.

Any military member who is off-island is qualified to get a care package.

"We want to make sure that all of them get something," Camacho said.

Program sites have been put up around the islands for the past two months to collect donations from the community.

From left, *Saipan Tribune* sales manager Waki Absalon, publisher Lynn Knight, education specialist Gerri Willis, Fred Camacho of the Troops-To-Teachers Program, and *Tribune* editor Jayvee Vallejera during the turnover the back issues of *Saipan Tribune* that will be sent to CNMI troops abroad. ROSELYN MONROYO

Man gets 3 days in prison for choking son, engaging in fight

The Superior Court handed down a three-day prison term on a man who choked his minor son and engaged in a fight with another man during the Liberation Day Parade.

Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo sentenced Glenn Taman Rios to one year in jail, all suspended except for three days, for assault and battery.

Govendo sentenced the 31-year-old Rios to six months in prison, all suspended except for three days, for disturbing the peace in the other case.

The judge said the sentences in the two cases shall run concurrently. He also gave the defendant credit for the three days he has already served in jail. This means Rios would no longer serve jail time as he has already served three days in prison.

Govendo placed the defendant on 18 months of probation and required him to pay a $200 fine, $25 court assessment fee, plus a probation fee.

The judge ordered Rios to perform 50 hours of community work service and pay restitution.

During the probationary period, the defendant will be prohibited from possessing and consuming alcoholic beverages.

Rios signed a plea agreement. He pleaded guilty to assault and battery in one case and to disturbing the peace in the other case.

The agreement stated that on May 2, 2008, Rios squeezed his teenaged son's forearm and choked him.

On July 4, 2006, Rios and another man were arrested for having a fistfight while watching the Liberation Day Parade along Beach Road in Garapan. As a result of the fight, the glass window at JJ Managaha Store was damaged.

Last January, Rios was also arrested when he allegedly pushed her wife to a concrete wall at their residence in Tanapag.

The wife suffered a three-inch long laceration in the forehead. She also had bruises and swollen lips, police said. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Man in domestic violence gets probation

The Superior Court yesterday handed down a six-month probation sentence on a man who assaulted his wife at a Susupe park during an argument.

Associate Judge David Wiseman sentenced Adrian Baculod to six months in prison, all suspended, for assault.

Following a plea agreement, Wiseman placed Baculod on six months probation and required him to perform 30 hours of community service.

The judge ordered the defendant to write a letter of apology to the victim and pay a $200 fine, $25 court assessment fee plus probation fee.

Wiseman directed Baculod to seek appointment with the Community Guidance Center for counseling.

Baculod was charged with assault and battery. He signed a plea agreement with the government and pleaded guilty to the lesser offense of assault.

The assault incident occurred on April 20, 2008. Police said the wife sustained a laceration to the face.

Detective Andrea C. Ozawa stated in her report that on April 20 at 1:15am, while two police officers were on routine patrol, they spotted a vehicle parked at the Susupe Regional Park with its park lights on.

As the police officers were approaching the entrance to the park to check, the vehicle headed toward the marked police vehicle.

The driver's window was rolled down and the driver, later identified as Baculod, told officers he was having an argument with his wife.

The officers then heard a woman inside the car yelling for help. The officers instructed Baculod to park the car. Baculod, however, drove out of the park, promptingd the officers to chase the car.

The car stopped near the Mobil service station in Susupe. When one of the two police officers approached the passenger side, a woman with blood all over her face opened the window and told the officer that her husband beat her up. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Ofisinan I Gubietno
Dipåttamenton I Tano' Pupbliku

NOTISIA POT PRINIPONEN ATKILONTANO PUBLIKO

Segun gi lai 15-2, I Depattamenton Tano, segun i LaiPubliko 15-2, ha anununsia planon atkilon tano publiko giya Tinian, Commonwealth i Sankattan siha na Islas. Todo man-interesao libre munahalom opinion `sino infotmasion pot i mapropopone na planonuson tano publiko. Maprebeniye lokue isigiente siha na infotmasion para benefision publiko tat komo:

1. I tineteka na tano publiko inembrarasa 300 hegtarias. Trabiha ti mamimide este na lugat lao i uminteres umadelanta este na tano publiko pot para u hatsaye casino hotel yan primera na golf course giya Piña, Tinian.. Kopian lugat este na sitiu gaige gi Depattamenton Tano ni libre maina nu i publiku.

2. I para u inatkilai era i Neo Goldwings Paradise, un kotporasion guine giya Marianas. I membron direktot siha i sigiente: Hyun Myung In, presidente/tresurario yan Kwidong Woo, segundo presidente yan sekretario.

3. I mapropopone na atkilon tano publiko manegosio as Señor Kwidong Woo.

4. I para u atkila i lugat para u usa gimahatsan fasilidat hotel casino, golf course yan otro siha na fasilidat.

   I tetminonestena kontrata para 25 años ya siña ma-ekstende talo 15 años.

5. Libre hao mamaisen kopianestena plano gi Depattamenton Tano ni gaige gi segundo bibienda gi Joeten Dandan, Saipan; offisinanTano Publiko giya Luta yan Tinian.

6. I Depattamenton Tano taya otro plano ha resibe gi uson este siha na propiadat publiko giya Piña, Tinian.

7. I Sekretarion Depattamenton Tano Publiko siña ha resibe todo ninahalom opinion yan materiat pot este na proposito uttimo gi Novembre 24, 2008 gi todo Offisinan Tano Publiku giya Saipan, Tinian yan Luta.

ARONGORONG REEL POMWOL AKKILONUL FALÚWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tálil ye 106 (b) mellól Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyool Ammwlil Falúweer Toulap ekke atotoowow ammataf igha ebwe akkilaaló eghús falúw mellól Tchúlúyól, Commonwealth Téél Falúwasch Marianas. Schóókka eyoor máfiyeer rebwe isisilong aghiyghiir, aweewe, aingiingil reel pomwol akkilonul ammwelil falúweer toulap. Me bwal Alléghúl Toulap ye 15-2, e ayoora, lamal awewee kka rebwe mweiti ngáli milikka ebwe akkatéélo.

i. Pomwol akkilonul falúweer toulap ye ebwe elebwughúw toria (300 hectares), iye rebwe tilifischi ghatchúw bwelle investors rebwe ayúúw leliyel casino me golf resort iye e ghil ngáli bwuleyil Pina mewóól Tchúlúyól elapeló me ngáre eghús. Tilighial bwuley yeel nge eyoor mereel Bwulasiyool Falúweer Toulap (Public Lands) ye Tchúlúyól ngáre óubwe ghuley fischiy.

ii. Schéschéél schóól akkilon nge Neo Gold Wings Paradise Saipan Corporation d.b.a. NGP Casino and Hotel. Schóól Assamwoolul mwiisch (board of directors) mellol corporation nge Myung In Hyun me Kwidong Woo.

   Samwoolul (President/Treasurer) corporation nge Myung In Hyun. Vice President me Sekkretório nge Kwidong Woo.

iii. Schóól aweweel akkilon nge Kwidong Woo.

iv. Schóól akkilon nge ebwe ayúúw me mwóghutáágheli casino mellól hotel me golf resort me akkááw wiisal(fasilidóód).

   Tool aighúghúl pomwol akkilon nge reweigh me limoow ráágh (25 years), emmwel rebwe sóbweey ngáli bwal seigh me limoow ráágh (15 years).

   Pomwol akkilon yeel nge ebwe mwir sángi llapal méél faluw (value of the property).

v. Emmwel bwe tilighial akkilon yeel óubwe bwughil mereel bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap, elo aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) me Joeten Dandan Commercial Building llol Dandan, Seipél; aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) mellól Bank of Saipan Commercial Building, Luuta; me ngáre mmwal pwó (1st floor) mellól Kings Commercial Building, Tchúlúyól.

vi. Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge esáál bweibwogh mwo pomwol akkilon ye elo Piña, Tchúlúyól.

vii. Samwoolul Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge ebwe bwughil ischil mángemáng, aingiingil mereel amweyút mmwal schagh Nobiembre (November) 24, 2008 mellól Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap iye elo Seipél, Luuta, Tchúlúyol.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

The Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent, under Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, to lease certain public lands on Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

i. The proposed lease of public land is about 300 hectares that has yet to be surveyed to which investor plans to lease for purposes of building a casino hotel and golf resort situated in the Piña Area on Tinian. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands for review.

ii. The prospective lessee is Neo Goldwings Paradise, Co. Ltd. a CNMI corporation. The Board of Directors of the corporation are Hyun Myung In, president/treasurer and Kwidong Woo, vice president/secretary.

iii. The proposed lease was negotiated by Mr. Kwidong Woo.

iv. The lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose of developing and operating a casino hotel and golf resort and related facilities.

   The term of the proposed lease agreement is 25 years, with an option to extend the lease for an additional 15 years.

   The proposed annual rental during the term is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property.

v. A copy of the proposed lease agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; the 2nd floor of the Bank of Saipan Commercial Building, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land at Piña, Tinian.

vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before November 24, 2008 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

SCC hosts student career exploration

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce this year will again sponsor Student Career Exploration Day on Dec. 3, 2008. The Chamber's Education Committee has designed this day and many Chamber businesses will participate.

"We believe that it is important to give interested students a chance to experience a 'day in the life' of private business, especially as the private sector will be employing more and more of our local workforce over the coming years," said Chamber executive director Kyle Calabrese.

Student Career Exploration Day on Dec. 3 is also the day of the Chamber's General Membership Meeting; students will have the additional experience of attending a Chamber meeting and interacting with Chamber members and student participants.

Students will "shadow" employees and owners of Chamber-member companies in positions that run the gamut of work experience: hotel manager, sales and marketing, underwriter, newspaper reporting and photography, accountant, executive assistant, IT manager, baker, laser technician, claims adjuster, auto mechanic, food and beverage director, bank teller, chiropractor assistant, talk show host, and bank officer are just a few of the positions students have shadowed in the past.

The program is open to all public and private high school juniors and seniors. Students are responsible for arranging their own transportation to and from their work sites; the Chamber cannot provide transportation.

Application materials—which must be received in the Chamber office no later than 5pm this Friday, Nov. 14—include an application form, high school permission form, and parental consent form**.** Applications will be considered in the order they are received. Applications must be complete, and both permission slips must be signed—the student/parent or guardian permission slip and the high school permission slip. Incomplete applications will not be considered for the Student Career Exploration Day.

The Chamber office, located in the Family Building in Garapan, on Garapan Street across the Bank of Saipan, must receive original signed permission slips. The office is open Monday through Friday, 8am to 5pm; it is closed from noon to 1pm for lunch. Applications are available at all public and private high schools or can be requested by sending an email to coordinator@saipanchamber.com. ***(SCC)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

November 13, 2000

Govt sues couple for neglecting guest worker

The CNMI government has filed a civil suit before the Superior Court against Juan and Vivian Lizama for refusing to pay the back wages of their former Filipino housemaid Benedicta Alvear, who had died of cancer. According to the civil complaint filed through Assistant Attorney General Celeste Andersen, the Lizama couple also failed to pay the nonresident worker 's medical bills, failure to comply with Employment Standards, violation of the Minimum Wage and Hour Act and noncompliance with the order of DOLI's hearing officer.

Judicial College eyes NMI as regional training center

With its modern court facilities and well-trained judges and justices, Saipan may soon become the site of a regional training center for the judiciary. Two representatives from the National Judicial College, Peggy Vidal, international manager, and Wyoming Judge Michael Lamp were sent here by the Ninth Circuit Court for an exploratory visit last week.

November 13, 2001

HUD gives NMI a second look

The Washington DC-based Department of Housing and Urban Development has been prompted to review its earlier decision not to implement a mortgage insurance program in the CNMI after a recent teleconference that showed up its lack of adequate information on the state of the housing industry in the Commonwealth. The HUD headquarters is now going over materials and data provided its office by Rep. William S. Torres, the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. and the Bank of Hawaii, with the end view of determining whether there is enough borrowing demand in the CNMI to support the Federal Housing Administration's mortgage insurance program.

Yuletide hoped to bring life to poor sale figures

If it is any consolation, a local establishment has reported a steady increase on the sale of Christmas decor and trimmings -- the first positive news heard from the business sector since the September 11 terrorist attacks on the US. At the same time, local stores selling Christmas ornaments have also raised hopes that their sales will grow during the holiday season.

November 13, 2002

Administration-House showdown looms

In terse language that drew attention to his opposition to the bill, Gov. Juan N. Babauta vetoed House Bill 13-126, setting the stage for another possible confrontation with the House of Representatives, which had earlier vowed to override any veto on the measure. In his transmittal letter to the Legislature, Babauta did not cite any specific reason for the veto action, besides merely saying he is taking this action based on the comments and legal analysis made by the Office of the Attorney General on House Bill 13-126.

'Why are we not surprised?'

Gov. Juan N. Babauta's veto on House Bill 13-126--the bill drafted to correct ambiguities on Public Law 13-1--came as no surprise to most Legislature members. But immediate reactions from some House and Senate members came in the form of a question: What is the rationale behind the veto?

November 13, 2003

Tourists are coming back

Visitor arrivals to the Northern Marianas last month indicated that the islands' tourism industry is beginning to regain strength following tumultuous global events that adversely impacted the travel sector across the globe. For the second consecutive month, the number of tourists who visited the CNMI increased in October compared to the monthly figures last year. Last month's arrival tally of 38,512 was just 0.38 percent shy of October 2000's 40,400 total-before the 9-11 tragedy pillaged economies worldwide.

Babauta seeks increased military presence

Gov. Juan N. Babauta is looking to confirm if the U.S. Pacific Command has the Northern Marianas in mind amid reported plans by Pacom to close or downsize its military base in Okinawa. The chief executive is poised to raise the subject as part of the agenda in his Nov. 24 meeting with Admiral Thomas Fargo, the Pacom commander.

Joeten's Best Buys of the Week!

November 13, thru 19, 2008

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Euro Duck Feather Pillow
$8.99

Poly Pillow Queen
$9.99

Poly Pillow King
$10.49

Mattress Pad
King $31.49
Queen $24.99
Full $22.99
Twin $18.99

Supermarket

Thanksgiving Specials

Norbest Turkey
A 2B/4B (10-26lbs.)
$1.45 lb.

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A 2B/4B (10-24lbs.)
$1.75 lb.

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(8-10lbs.)
$2.15 lb.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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Lynn A. Knight PUBLISHER
Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Kick the tires first

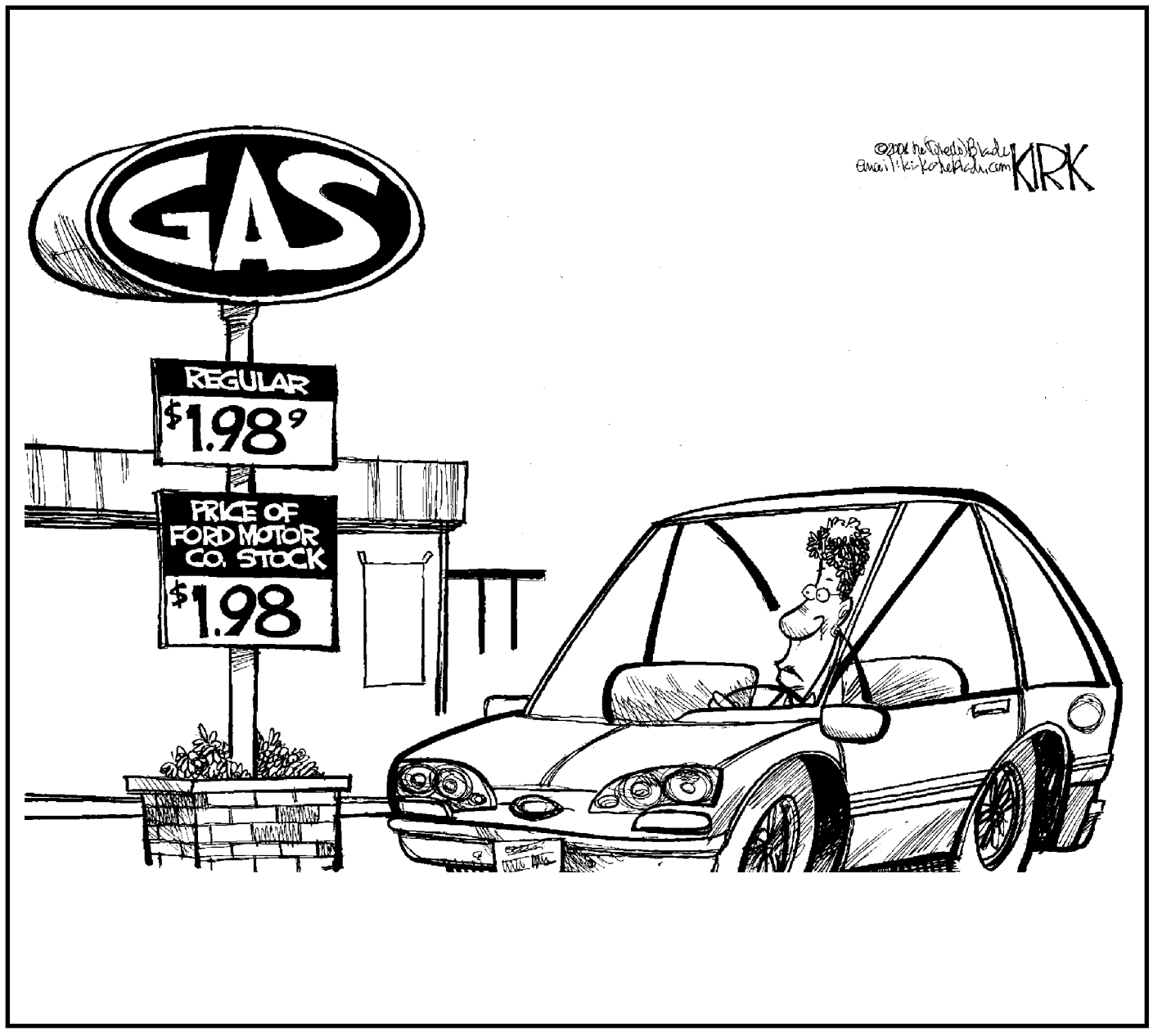
The economic downturn is prompting a growing number of companies and consumers to file for bankruptcy, with more than 1 million petitions for bankruptcy protection expected by year's end. Now, backers of the Big Three U.S. automakers warn that one or more of their number could fail too unless the federal government swoops in with $50 billion in aid. General Motors Corp. is in such a precarious financial state that an analyst at investment firm Deutsche Bank urged investors to dump the stock before it becomes worthless.

The Democratic leadership in Congress and President-elect Barack Obama have hinted about helping Detroit. But before they take that step, they need to consider how GM, Ford Motor Co. and Chrysler reached this point and what position they'll be in after the economy rebounds. Last year, a study by University of California, Berkeley professor Kenneth E. Train and Brookings Institution economist Clifford Winston noted that U.S. automakers have been on a downward slide since 1970, with their share of the domestic car market falling from 86 percent in 1970 to 42 percent in 2005. In other words, their slippage started too long ago and has continued too steadily to have been caused by the factors cited over the years by Detroit, including health-care costs, pension obligations, unfavorable exchange rates and, most recently, burdensome fuel-economy standards.

The best explanation for the declining popularity of the Big Three's cars and trucks is that they haven't kept pace with other brands in the features consumers value the most. It's worth noting that many of those competing cars were made by U.S. workers at U.S. factories—the ones owned by Toyota, Honda, BMW and other foreign companies. Some of the Big Three's supporters have called for higher barriers to imported cars—a move that could help free-trading partners Mexico and Canada but would be of limited benefit to Detroit. A 25 percent tariff on imported light trucks didn't stop U.S. automakers from losing more than 20 percent of their market share, according to the study by Train and Winston.

Advocates for the Big Three say that bankruptcy, which would allow them to restructure more aggressively and shift huge pension costs onto the taxpayers, is not an option because it could wipe out any remaining loyalty to their brands. A $50-billion loan to the automakers, however, isn't likely to bring about the changes the notoriously insular companies and their unions have resisted for three decades, especially if the companies continue under the same management. Before putting taxpayers on the hook for billions in aid, policymakers need to ask Detroit for change they can believe in.

(c) 2008, Los Angeles Times



The fight within

By RIK and JANEL VILLEGAS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rik is a business instructor at NMC and Janel is the owner of Positively Outrageous Results. They can be contacted at: biz_results@yahoo.com

An elder Cherokee Native American was teaching his grandchildren about life one day.

He said to them, "A fight is going on inside me. It is a terrible fight and it is between two wolves. One wolf represents fear, anger, envy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego.

"The other stands for joy, peace, love, hope, sharing, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, friendship, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion, and faith.

"This same fight is going on inside you, and inside every other person, too."

They thought about it for a minute and then one child asked his grandfather, "Which wolf will win?"

The old Cherokee replied... "The one you feed."

The biggest world financial crisis in our lifetime is happening right before our eyes. Former Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan said in an interview a couple of months ago in the huggingtonpost.com that the situation is by far the worst he had seen in his career. "There's no question that this is in the process of outstripping anything I've seen and it still is not resolved and still has a way to go…"

The CNMI is also in the grips of a financial collapse. The clarion call to avoid an economic meltdown has been sounded so many times by numerous people, but it seems to have fallen on deaf ears. Some would say it is too late to do anything, and now it is time to brace ourselves for the reality of the situation.

There are many plausible explanations for the local and worldwide crisis, but the core fault lies in the many people who allowed the wolf that represents greed to go on an avaricious feeding frenzy. Capitalism, in its ugliest form, allowed self-serving individuals and companies to take advantage of some easy money.

One can't blame capitalism, per se, because all of the economic systems have their pros and cons. In theory, capitalism, socialism, and communism all have wonderful aims, but in practice they have all fallen short of the mark because of the greed that festers in those entrusted with power and money. That "wolf" begets arrogance, false pride, and envy, but it reaps anger, resentment, sorrow, and fear.

Each of us is feeding one of the "wolves" inside of us. As a business owner, you might have started your businesses because you wanted greater freedom, to enjoy a better quality of life, or make a greater contribution to society. Your "dream" of a better life fed the wolf that stands for joy, hope, and generosity.

Over the past few years, circumstances might have changed and your hope for a better life might have transformed into fear, anger, and regret as the economy slides into the abyss. Using fear as a motivation, though, can sometimes backfire and transform into fear of failure. Once that wolf gains control, it can be a ruthless master.

The fear of failure can literally stunt your emotional growth and cause you to accept mediocrity in nearly every important area of life. If you have lived with this wolf for very long, it may have moved into your subconscious, and you may not even be aware of its presence, yet it exerts a moment-by-moment influence on every aspect of your life and your decision-making process.

Your options may seem limited and your business may feel more like a chain that ties you down, rather than wings that allow you to soar to your true potential. America and the CNMI are composed of small and medium sized entrepreneurs who make the islands and the country what it is today. It is those business owners and not the government nor politicians that will lead us toward more prosperous times.

How do you, as an entrepreneur, continue to feed the wolf inside that was your original motivation for taking a risk? The key is to know where you are going and believe that you can get there. You started and kept working at your business because you may have been fed by the hope of a better life. It is that hope that will continue to inspire you and those around you to persevere. Feeding that "wolf" inside will eventually dispel the debilitating fear that paralyzes its victims.

Our situation will improve—it must improve—when we feed the wolf inside us so it can control and conquer our minds and hearts with greater hope, kindness, compassion, and faith.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Nonvoter sends her regrets to Obama

By NORAH VINCENT
SPECIAL TO THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

I did not vote this year, and up until a few days ago, I felt good about that decision. But now I wonder if it wasn't a mistake. Or maybe not so much a mistake as something I will come to regret in time. As I've watched the wave of post-election elation rushing over so many people in recent days, and as I have been unexpectedly and powerfully moved myself, I've started to feel a little, I don't know, out of it.

I decided not to vote for what I think are good reasons.

Though I am by no means as doctrinaire as I once was about political and social matters, I'm still a libertarian fiscal conservative. In the most concrete terms, this means I don't believe that penalizing people who make more than $250,000 a year is going to fix the economy.

In fact, I think it may worsen it. The argument goes deeper than that, of course, but no doubt you've heard it before, so I'm not going to bore you with it now. Let's just say that that's the short version of the reason I didn't vote for Barack Obama.

There are two reasons I didn't vote for John McCain. The first is that I think he is a man of brittle intellect and doctrinaire sensibility. These are potentially fatal flaws that he shares with the current president, flaws, incidentally, that Obama does not share. In fact, Obama's intellectual curiosity and suppleness of mind is, in my view, one of his biggest selling points, whatever your political beliefs.

The second reason I didn't vote for McCain is—big surprise here—Sarah Palin. Christopher Hitchens was right on the money when he called her a "proud, boastful ignoramus," though I would go further. She is a belligerent ignoramus. The resounding theme of her candidacy was a shamefully rabble-rousing, nauseatingly populist denunciation of knowledge, intellectual expression and reasoned debate, all apparently the vicious province of the media elite and not the hard and hardy backbone of the "real" America.

Watching her made me sick, and the thought of her ascending to the highest office in the land on the possible demise of her less-than-robust 72-year-old boss was not something I could live with. A vote for him was, in all likelihood, a vote for her, and I just couldn't do it.

But after watching the video of Obama's acceptance speech (I went to bed early Nov. 4), I have, to my great surprise, found myself moved to tears by the president-elect, by his poise and graciousness, not to mention what seems to be his almost Hegelian historical significance. I now wonder if I missed out on the moment. Am I going to feel a little caught out one day when I have to say that I did not vote for him? Or will I feel vindicated by what will surely be the many and great disappointments of the Obama administration?

After all, what man could live up to so much expectation? So much hope?

I honestly don't know how the man gets out of bed in the morning. I mean, really, what kind of person goes to work every day thinking, "Yep, just heading off to fix the world." Either a god or a lunatic, it seems to me. Or, and here is my worst worry, a charlatan of the highest order. Because you have to seriously question whether you can really trust someone, anyone, who can manage to get himself elected in a democracy, and moreover someone who can do it while moving you to tears. That man is either P.T. Barnum or Gandhi.

Or not. Maybe he's just an absurdly hopeful person with a lot of energy and belief who can strike the infinitely delicate balance of making the masses happy while sticking to his core beliefs. Maybe he's someone who knows how to tell us what we want to hear while at the same time doing what needs to be done. At this point, it's anybody's guess.

But whatever the case, watching Obama, I can't help myself. I feel proud of us. I think the world is actually proud of us, too, and more than a little surprised. It didn't think we had it in us. To tell you the truth, neither did I. We—well, actually, you—didn't elect a black man to the presidency. You elected someone who is an incredibly inspiring man, a Kennedyesque, Lincolnesque, Rooseveltesque man, who happens to be black. You elected him not because of or in spite of his race, but without regard to his race, and whether he lives up to even the hundredth part of his promise, the electorate has lived up to its, and sitting here now, embarrassedly wiping my eyes, I sort of wish I had been part of it.

Vincent is the author of Voluntary Madness: My Year Lost and Found in the Loony Bin, *forthcoming in December.*

Letters to the Editor

Missing the point

I want to thank Mr. Jaime Vergara for his prompt and colorful response. Unfortunately, Vergara missed the entire point of my previous letter. For the benefit of this San Vicente Elementary School teacher, kindly allow me to reiterate my point by highlighting the chief reason why I found this teacher's statement offensive.

A couple of days ago, Vergara publicly shared an unfortunate incident he had with one of his local SVES students. He partly wrote and I quote (nothing here is made up): *"announced my delight over Obama's election, one of my local students blurted out: the b---- n-----? I was stunned. It was a knee-jerk response of a child echoing something he learned from his home and culture."* (I decided not to spell out the racist remark). It would indeed be interesting to learn how Veraga arrived at the conclusion that the child's remarks are attributed to the student's upbringing and culture. I am certain that the parents of this kid would not appreciate Mr. Vergara's knee-jerk assumption and sudden rush to judgment. For one thing, this youth's misguided remark does not merit this teacher's unbecoming actions wherein the latter took it upon himself to selfishly or unfairly use his young student for his own advantage. Call it calling a spade a spade. With that said, I believe that an apology from Vergara to his student, the parents of his student, and the CNMI locals is definitely in order. The CNMI is not a hub for racists! Ethnically or otherwise!

As for this teacher stating that he is a Democrat, well, good for him! However, this political revelation has no bearing whatsoever on this issue. Perhaps, a non-sequitur or a futile attempt to bring oneself out of a huge hole that was dug. Professionally speaking, it is not good practice to mix personal ideals and/or politics with work. Vergara's recent personal delight over Obama's victory to which he shared with his class two days ago (which if I may add, triggered this sensitive issue) is a classic example why personal views and politics should be left at the doorsteps of every job site. The PSS may want to revisit its policies on whether employees are allowed to use their official titles or make references to a school or the Central Office when expressing a personal viewpoint, belief, etc. Moreover, PSS officials should inform the public whether it is appropriate for employees to exploit students (young children at that) whenever its employees decide to express their personal views, beliefs, etc.

Now, kindly allow me want to respond to Vergara's thirsty horse analogy. Without question, it would be a noble act had Vergara decided to take a young horse (i.e. a yearling, colt or filly) to the creek for water. Sadly that was not the case, as he clearly decided to instead leave the young horse hung out to dry. Additionally and contrary to this teacher's murky and perplexed perception of our islands' culture, the CNMI is known for its many friendly local people who are always ready to extend the islands' Hafa Adai spirit and hospitality to the thousands of visitors it receives year-round.

As a final point, being an official host to a melting pot of various cultures, the Commonwealth should continue to stand proud of its heritage and remain forever grateful and indebted to the immeasurable number of people who have contributed to the successes of our islands over the years and most importantly, the countless individuals and groups who have chosen to make the CNMI their home. Adios ignorance and arrogance; Hafa Adai *todus*!

Kimo Mafnas Rosario
As Gonno, Saipan

Transparency

Dr. Debra T. Cabrera
Chair, NMI Council for the Humanities

I join you in congratulating all the recipients of the most recent Governor's Awards for the Humanities. However, it is with deep sadness that none of the other nominees were honored by acknowledging their nominations. The public deserves to be informed of all the others who have been nominated in each category.

By acknowledging nominees, it will also indicate who is really deserving of being awarded and that questions of impartiality can be avoided—in all fairness, being nominated is an honor in itself.

Alexandro Sablan
via e-mail

Moments like these

I just wanted to thank and congratulate the NMC Foundation and its organizers for a terrific show on Sunday, Nov. 9.

My kids were one of the first to buy tickets and we watched the entire day event. Thanks also to KABA Modern for coming out to Saipan and giving us a taste of real entertainment. It's moments like these where we look around and see that things might not be so bad. For four hours that day, I was able to watch my children smile and scream and not have to worry about the high cost of power, food, fuel, and living on Saipan. It's moments like these that made me proud of my school, the NMC, for being able to get organized and bring them out. Thanks again to all the other sponsors and people who ran around that day waving arms and directing the show. You all made Sunday a day that will always be remembered! Go NMC!

Patricia Camacho
Kagman, Saipan

Presence at the table

Unlike each of the States, the Commonwealth has only one seat at the table in Congress, and so it is critically important for that seat to be filled anytime there is an official meeting. Also, given the enormity of the task ahead for our Delegate to Congress, it makes sense for him to get a running start by attending the upcoming gathering of newly elected congressional representatives and delegates to be held in Washington, D.C. on Nov. 17. Since the election has not yet been certified, the question becomes who should attend that meeting on behalf of the Commonwealth.

Although all of the absentee ballots have not yet been counted, it seems quite improbable that Mr. Pete A. Tenorio will defeat Mr. Gregorio C. Sablan (Kilili). As the putative winner of the election, Mr. Sablan should be given the benefit of any doubt that may exist, and should attend the meeting in Washington next week. In the event that Pete A. turns out to be the winner, Mr. Sablan could easily transition any matters to Pete A. There would be very little to transition at that point in time, and Mr. Sablan is certainly more than capable of doing so in the unlikely event it comes to that. We should all support Mr. Sablan's efforts to represent us beginning with upcoming meeting.

Juan T. Lizama
2008 Delegate Candidate

Industries and labor unions

We've heard, time and again, the adolescent assertion about the "export of American jobs overseas" by politicians seeking public offices. It's a perfect sound bite but hardly expressed with full knowledge of its history over the last 50 years.

The issue is best presented to the labor unions across the country who have pushed for piles of benefits beyond the ability of industries to deal with the high cost of labor. For instance, a surgical glove factory in Niagara moved to Malaysia to beat the cost of labor.

The factory pays U.S. workers $16 an hour for the production of surgical gloves. It moved to Malaysia where the same quality material is produced at the cost of $8 a day. Do you blame businesses that see the need to relocate to venues around the world where the production cost per unit is far cheaper?

Again, bring the issue right to the front door of labor bosses who have done a superb job of pricing out American workers right at home. Eh, let me worry about my health and life insurance. Otherwise, do it the Japan Inc. Way where everybody is covered but whose benefits are reduced accordingly in bad times.

High wages are good for as long as it last. When there are no jobs, you become pretty much like doctors on call. In the meantime, go ahead and collect unemployment checks. It's in the system anyway though I quiz if this is part and whole of the American Dream.

John S. DelRosario Jr.
As Gonno, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.
▲87° ▼76°	▲86° ▼77°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲86° ▼76°

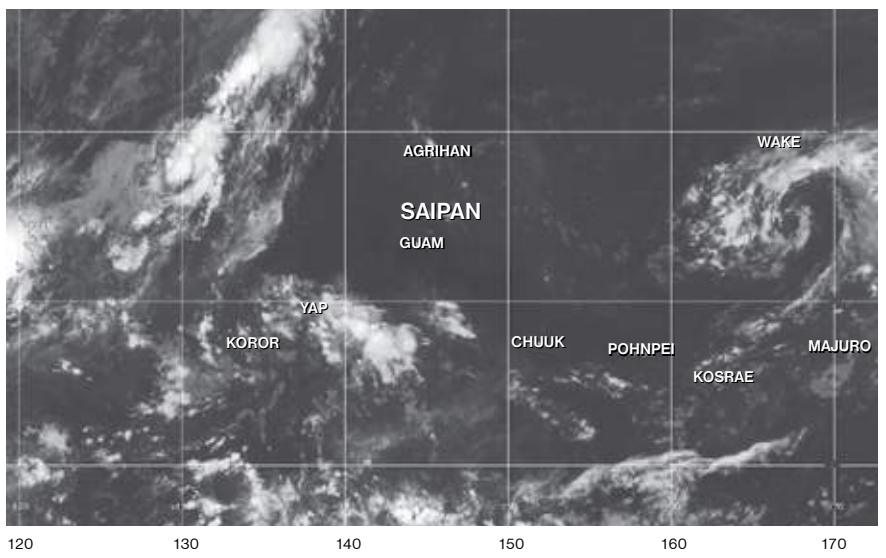
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲85	▼76
Palau	Showers	▲86	▼78
Yap	Showers	▲87	▼76
Chuuk	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86	▼73
Kosrae	Rain	▲84	▼77
Majuro	Showers	▲84	▼78

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲70	▼63
Beijing	Partly Sunny	▲59	▼36
Hong Kong	Cloudy	▲82	▼72
Honolulu	Showers	▲82	▼69
London	Showers	▲50	▼43
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲84	▼56
Manila	Showers	▲86	▼75
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲83	▼64
Miami	Thundershowers	▲85	▼74
New York	Rain	▲53	▼50
Osaka	Sunny	▲62	▼49
Paris	Cloudy	▲49	▼42
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲66	▼49
Rome	Showers	▲60	▼47
Salem	Showers	▲57	▼38
San Francisco	Sunny	▲69	▼54
Seoul	Partly Sunny	▲57	▼41
Tokyo	Partly Sunny	▲65	▼51
Washington, DC	Rain	▲56	▼51

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2008
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends northeastward from 18N130E to a circulation centered at 25N136E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring along and up to 200 miles northwest of this boundary. A surface trough extends northwestward from EQ140E through a weak circulation centered southwest of Koror at 6N133E to end at 7N130E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are present between 1N and 8N from 132E to 141E. Trade-winds converging east of the trough are generating scattered showers southeast of Yap between 2N and 9N from 141E to 148E. A large mid to upper-level low is centered southeast of Wake Island at 14N171E. An attendant surface trough runs northeastward from EQ165E to 10N170E to 20N171E. Convergent trade-winds near the trough are combining with upper-level divergence to produce scattered showers over Kwajalein and Majuro between 6N and 11N from 163E to 175E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms associated with the low are occurring southeast of Wake Island within 150 miles of a line from 13N167E to 19N172E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
1:10AM Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet
8:01AM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
1:28PM Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
6:36PM Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:18AM	5:45 PM
Friday	6:18AM	5:44 PM
Saturday	6:19AM	5:44 PM
Sunday	6:19AM	5:44 PM
Monday	6:20AM	5:44 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	5:33PM	5:54AM
Friday	6:33PM	7:01AM
Saturday	7:38PM	8:09AM
Sunday	8:45PM	9:15AM
Monday	9:51PM	10:16AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 11, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	5:00am	5:50am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	2,3,4,5,6
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 099	5:00am	7:40am	Daily
NW 078	8:25am	1:30pm	2,3,4,5,6,7
NW 075	4:55pm	7:30pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:30pm	7:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:25am	11:05am	Daily

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:30am	6:20am	1
OZ 604	2:40am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:20pm	7:00pm	Daily

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,4,5,7

Saipan-Shanghai

OZ 608	1:30am	4:30am	2,6
FM 844	2:50am	5:40am	2,6

Rota-Guam

CO 9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1,7

Guam-Manila

CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3,5 via Koror
CO 933	8:00pm	9:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:50am	1,2,4,6,7

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	3:25am	4:00am	5,6

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	1,2,3,4,7
CO9598	2:30am	4:00am	5,6 via Rota
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:15am	2:40pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:25am+1	2,3,4,5,6,7
NW 100	8:45pm	1:15am+1	Daily

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:40am	3:10pm	Daily

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	9:00pm	1:25am+1	Daily

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:40am+1	3,4,6,7

Shanghai-Saipan

OZ 607	5:30pm	12:30am+1	1,5
FM 843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1,5

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	2:30am	3:00am	5,6

Manila-Guam

CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3,5 via Koror
CO 934	11:10pm	4:40am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:10pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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Business

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA
3,883.600
Down 38.200
(-0.97%)

HONG KONG
13,972.80
Down 68.10
(-0.49%)

JAKARTA
1,328.819
Down 7.738
(-0.58%)

TOKYO
8,695.51
Down 113.79
(-1.29%)

K. LUMPUR
897.61
Down 6.63
(-0.73%)

MANILA
1,948.72
Up 0.50
(+0.03%)

SINGAPORE
1,804.19
Down 2.77
(-0.15%)

SEOUL
1,123.86
Down 23.73
(-4.87%)

BANGKOK
436.87
Down 5.44
(-1.23%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW
8,693.96
-176.58

NASDAQ
1,580.90
-35.84

S&P
898.95
0.00

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.509
British Pound	0.6474
Canadian Dollar	1.2017
Chinese Renmbi	6.8285
Euro	0.7935
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7519
Indian Rupee	48.785
Indonesian Rupiah	11325
Japanese Yen	97.84
Malaysian Ringgit	3.5886
New Zealand Dollar	1.7292
Philippine Peso	48.97
Singapore Dollar	1.5015
South Korean Won	1350.5
Swiss Franc	1.1839
Taiwan Dollar	32.965
Thailand Baht	34.948

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Bush administration still working on $700B rescue

WASHINGTON (AP)—At a time when most administrations are getting ready to turn out the lights, the Bush administration is still struggling to get the biggest government rescue in history up and running.

Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson, who is leading the effort, is facing a lot of criticism and second guessing at the moment over how well the $700 billion bailout program for the U.S. financial system is being handled. Paulson was scheduled to give an update on the effort on Wednesday.

Critics are complaining that the administration is not being tough enough on the banks who are receiving the assistance, that the original centerpiece of the program—government purchases of troubled assets—has been left to languish and that homeowners struggling with mortgage foreclosures are not getting the help they need to stay in their homes.

And in addition to all of those complaints, the administration is having to contend with a number of industries, led by auto companies, who contend that they deserve a share of the rescue funds.

President-elect Obama, when he met with President Bush at the White House on Monday, urged Bush to support aid for struggling automakers and Democrats in Congress have begun drafting legislation that would give General Motors, Ford and Chrysler access to $25 billion of the rescue funds.

The Bush administration has already committed $250 billion of the money for the purchase of bank stock, giving financial institutions an infusion of cash that the government hopes they will use to resume more normal lending operations and address the most severe credit crisis in decades. On Monday, the administration announced that it was allocating another $40 billion as an investment in troubled insurance giant American International Group.

Oil hovers near $59 on global growth pessimism

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices hovered near 20-month lows at $59 a barrel Wednesday in Asia as investors come to grips with the prospect that global growth next year will slow more than originally feared, cutting demand for crude products such as gasoline.

Light, sweet crude for December delivery was down 31 cents to $59.02 a barrel, after falling as low as $58.55, in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange by midday in Singapore. The contract overnight fell $3.08 to settle at $59.33, the lowest closing price since March 2007.

Oil prices have fallen about 60 percent in four months, plunging from a record $147.27 in mid-July.

"We have a pretty good idea that global growth is going to be pretty awful next year and probably not much better in 2010," said Mark Pervan, senior commodity strategist with ANZ Bank in Melbourne. "There was clearly a bubble scenario in all commodities and that bubble has burst."

Investors are pricing in slowing crude demand growth from China, whose economy, the world's fourth largest, was once thought to be a counterweight to weakening demand from the U.S. and Europe.

U.S. bank Morgan Stanley earlier this week cut its 2009 forecast for Chinese economic growth to 7.5 percent from 8.2 percent. The bank expects Asia outside of Japan to grow 5.5 percent next year, the U.S. economy to shrink 1.3 percent and Europe to contract 0.6 percent.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

CFTC head calls for new regulatory regime

WASHINGTON (AP)—The head of the federal agency that oversees commodities trading wants to replace it and the Securities and Exchange Commission with three new regulators to better deal with an increasingly complex financial system. "I believe the United States should scrap the current outdated regulatory framework in favor of an objectives-based regulatory system consisting of three primary authorities: a new systemic risk regulator, a new market integrity regulator and a new investor protection regulator," said Walter Lukken, acting chairman of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission. The CFTC oversees futures and options trading in commodities, including oil, natural gas and agricultural products. Lukken, a Bush appointee who plans to leave before the Obama administration takes over, made the appeal in a speech to a futures industry gathering in Chicago, calling it "a bold new direction for our regulatory system." The new systemic risk regulator "would have the responsibility of policing the entirety of the financial system for 'black swan' risks" and would take preventive action in those cases, he said. The concept of black swan risk, which has recently come into vogue, is that events driving history are marked by new types of randomness. "Black swans" cut against people's expectations because they have only seen white ones.

DHL to cut US service, jobs

ATLANTA (AP)—In a move that could greatly scale back a possible venture between UPS and Deutsche Post's DHL, the German company said Monday it will significantly reduce its air and ground operations in the U.S. and cut 9,500 jobs within the country. The DHL-UPS deal was expected to last up to 10 years and infuse Atlanta-based UPS with up to $1 billion in annual revenue, if completed as first proposed in May. UPS, the world's largest shipping carrier, has said the contract with DHL, which it has been working to finalize, would mostly involve the transport of DHL packages between airports in North America—not the pickup or delivery of DHL packages to customers. If DHL made significant cuts to its ground operations in the U.S., it wouldn't necessarily affect UPS and DHL reaching a deal since their talks have solely involved air delivery of packages, not ground delivery.

NEWSPAPER CLOSURES AP

A pallete of empty newspaper dispensers is seen here in the parking lot of *The Herald of New Britain*, Tuesday, Nov.11, 2008 in New Britain, Conn. Newspaper publisher Journal Register Co. told employees of two central Connecticut daily newspapers, *The Herald of New Britain and The Bristol Press*, and 11 weeklies that the papers could close as early as Jan. 12 unless a buyer steps forward.

Critics say new federal mortgage plan not enough

WASHINGTON (AP)—Once again, the government has offered another plan to help troubled homeowners. Once again, critics say it doesn't go far enough. The plan announced Tuesday by federal officials and mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac sounds sweeping in its approach: Borrowers would get reduced interest rates or longer loan terms to make their payments more affordable.

But there's a catch. The plan focuses on loans Fannie and Freddie own or guarantee. They are the dominant players in the U.S. mortgage market but represent only 20 percent of delinquent loans.

Sheila Bair, chairman of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., said the plan "falls short of what is needed to achieve wide-scale modifications of distressed mortgages."

With the government spending billions to aid distressed banks, "we must also devote some of that money to fixing the front-end problem: too many unaffordable home loans," Bair said in a statement.

Democrats on Capitol Hill aren't satisfied, either. "When the loan is chopped up into a million pieces and any investor can block a modification from happening, a program like this will only scratch the surface of the mortgage crisis," said Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y.

The economic crisis is still unnerving Wall Street. Stocks fell again as investors found few industries safe from the consumer spending slump. With Starbucks Corp. and luxury homebuilder Toll Brothers Inc. both posting disappointing quarterly results, the Dow Jones industrial average closed down nearly 180 points.

Asian stocks fall as signs of slump mount

HONG KONG (AP)—Asian stock markets faltered Wednesday, with Hong Kong's benchmark down almost 2 percent, as evidence mounted that a worsening global economy has taken a toll on companies.

Japan's Nikkei stock average slid 146.11 points, or 1.7 percent, to 8,663.19 and Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index lost 256.49, or 1.8 percent, to 13,784.41.

In China, the benchmark Shanghai Composite Index fell 0.8 percent to end morning trading at 1,828.56, as growing skepticism over the likely effectiveness of the country's $586 billion stimulus plan clouded sentiment.

"The markets are more pessimistic today," said Dariusz Kowalczyk, chief investment strategist at CFC Seymor in Hong Kong. "It is evident that recession is having a detrimental impact on demand, prices, sales and profits."

Investors found few reasons to buy after Wall Street pulled back as it became clear that slowing consumer demand was hitting a wide cross-section of companies.

Starbucks Corp. reported lower sales across the coffee chain, homebuilder Toll Brothers Inc. posted a sharp drop in revenue and said it was to difficult to forecast next year's results. Aluminum producer Alcoa Inc. announced production cuts due to lower prices.

Corporate Asia only added to the gloom as leading Japanese energy producer Inpex Holdings cut its forecasts amid slumping oil prices. There were also signs that Chinese shoppers were holding back after figures showed a softening in the country's retail sales in October compared with a year earlier.

Nation

Bush wistfully salutes veterans on Intrepid in NYC

By DEVLIN BARRETT
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—President Bush wistfully saluted the nation's veterans Tuesday as he prepares to hand two ongoing wars over to his successor, saying he'll "miss being the commander in chief of such a fabulous group."

Bush marked his last Veterans Day as president at a New York pier, speaking to a crowd of thousands bundled against the windy November chill for the rededication ceremony of the USS *Intrepid* Sea, Air and Space Museum.

The president praised veterans in the crowd, including those who served aboard the *Intrepid* in its long history of military action.

"Today we send a clear message to all who have worn the uniform: Thank you for your courage, thank you for your sacrifice, and thank you for standing up when your nation needed you most," said Bush, who will soon turn over to President-elect Barack Obama the responsibility for wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Obama has pledged to remove troops from Iraq and increase troops in Afghanistan.

With a little more than two months until he leaves office, the president teased lawmakers in attendance about the upcoming lame-duck legislative session, and joked that one thing he won't miss as president is New York City traffic jams.

Then he grew serious.

"I will miss being the commander in chief of such a fabulous group of men and women, those who wear the uniform of the United States military," Bush said.

Closer to the White House, Vice President Dick Cheney marked Veterans Day by solemnly placing a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery. Cheney then offered a glowing tribute to the U.S. armed forces: "No single military power in history has done greater good, shown greater courage, liberated more people, or upheld higher standards of decency and valor."

The president spoke in the shadow of the *Intrepid* and near the amphibious assault ship USS *Bataan*, where sailors and marines peered down on the ceremony from the ship's deck. Astronauts Scott Carpenter and Buzz Aldrin helped the president toss a wreath into the Hudson River as a bugler played "Taps."

AP

A naval attendant, center, holds a piece of the deck of the *Intrepid* given as a gift to President Bush, right, as the president speaks to Mike Hallahan, president of the *Intrepid* Former Crew Members Association at the rededication ceremony for the *Intrepid* Sea, Air and Space Museum in New York, Tuesday, Nov. 11, 2008.

Obama taps veteran Dems for DoD, State handovers

WASHINGTON (AP)—President-elect Obama has hired former Senate Armed Services Committee chairman Sam Nunn to help shepherd his Pentagon transition, a spokeswoman said Tuesday.

Nunn, a former Georgia senator and veteran Democratic defense adviser, was once rumored as a potential running mate for Obama. Transition spokeswoman Stephanie Cutter said Nunn will perform "an informal senior adviser role throughout the defense transition process."

Nunn's role has been described by others, speaking anonymously because the transition teams have not been announced, as the leader of Obama's defense transition. Similarly, a senior administration official said former Secretary of State Warren Christopher would advise Obama on his State Department transition.

Obama's national security transition offices will work with the outgoing Bush administration to hand off management of two wars and complex diplomacy with North Korea, Russia and other nations. Obama has not announced his choices to be defense secretary and secretary of state.

Nunn and Christopher would be part of a national security brain trust for Obama that is heavy on former Clinton administration officials, including possible national security adviser James Steinberg, a former State Department official.

At the Pentagon, the large transition office would likely include former Clinton Navy Secretary Richard Danzig and former Clinton-era Pentagon comptroller Bill Lynn, officials said. The announcements are expected later this week.

McCain says Palin didn't hurt presidential bid

LOS ANGELES (AP)—In his first interview since conceding the presidential election, John McCain said Tuesday that Sarah Palin did not damage his presidential bid and he dismissed anonymous criticism aimed at her following their crushing defeat.

"I'm so proud of her and I'm very grateful she agreed to run with me. She inspired people, she still does," McCain told Jay Leno during a "Tonight Show" interview taped for broadcast Tuesday night. "I couldn't be happier with Sarah Palin."

In an interview that mingled flashes of humor with political analysis, McCain did little to deflect responsibility from himself. He alluded to the difficult political environment for Republicans nationwide and conceded, "I could tell you a lot of things that we may have made mistakes on." He never listed them.

"So, that's the way it is," he added.

Asked by Leno to address griping about Palin from unidentified McCain operatives in the days following the election, the Arizona senator said, "These things happen in campaigns.

"I think I have at least a thousand, quote, top advisers," he scoffed. "A top adviser said? ... I've never even heard of ... a top adviser or a high-ranking Republican official."

Edwards speaks about Obama, Clinton but not affair

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. (AP)—John Edwards didn't have to dodge tough questions from an Indiana University audience Tuesday, when the former presidential candidate returned to the stage three months after admitting to an extramarital affair.

The Democrat's 30-minute speech covered politics, poverty and his hopes for America and the world and he later discussed President-elect Obama and other topics from the audience.

But the half-hour question-and-answer period featured only written queries that had been submitted before his speech—and the affair he has acknowledged with filmmaker Rielle Hunter didn't surface.

After his public statements in August, Edwards said he did not plan to speak about the affair again.

Sophomore Mariela Colindres told the *Indiana Daily Student* she thought Edwards was right not to address the affair during the speech.

"Nothing he could have said to make it better, plus it's a personal issue," she said.

Graduate student Kortnee Warner agreed.

"I heard about some of those issues," Warner told the student newspaper. "It happens more than you realize it. I didn't make any character judgments."

In response to questions from the audience, Edwards praised Hillary Rodham Clinton's leadership and said his favorite superhero is Superman.

He said Obama's victory showed what was right with America.

Edwards said he wants to live in a country where everyone has a real opportunity regardless of their background. "In many ways, Barack Obama symbolizes what's possible in America," he said.

Edwards also said election results in North Carolina and Indiana showed that the country was ready for change. Obama won both states that President Bush won in 2004.

He also said Obama's campaign did well by discussing the war, the economy, health care and energy—things the electorate cared about.

ACROSS THE NATION

Catholic bishops will fight Obama on abortion

BALTIMORE (AP)—The nation's Roman Catholic bishops vowed Tuesday to forcefully confront the Obama administration over its support for abortion rights, saying the church and religious freedom could be under attack in the new presidential administration. In an impassioned discussion on Catholics in public life, several bishops said they would accept no compromise on abortion policy. Many condemned Catholics who had argued it was morally acceptable to back President-elect Obama because he pledged to reduce abortion rates. And several prelates promised to call out Catholic policy makers on their failures to follow church teaching. Bishop Joseph Martino of Scranton, Pa., singled out Vice President-elect Biden, a Catholic, Scranton native who supports abortion rights. "I cannot have a vice president-elect coming to Scranton to say he's learned his values there when those values are utterly against the teachings of the Catholic Church," Martino said. The Obama-Biden press office did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Report urges states to tackle preterm birth crisis

WASHINGTON (AP)—The odds of having a premature baby are lowest in Vermont and highest in Mississippi. The March of Dimes mapped the stark state-by-state disparities in what it called a "report card" on prematurity Wednesday—to track progress toward meeting a federal goal of lowering preterm births. There's not much chance of meeting that goal by the original 2010 deadline, if the "D" grade the charity bestowed on the nation is any indication. More than half a million U.S. babies—one in every eight—are born premature each year, a toll that's risen steadily for two decades. The government's goal: No more than 7.6 percent of babies born before completion of the 37th week of pregnancy. Preterm birth can affect any mother-to-be, stressed a recent U.S. Surgeon General's meeting on the problem. Scientists don't understand all the complex causes. But Wednesday's report highlights big geographic differences that March of Dimes president Dr. Jennifer Howse called "a dash of cold water."

Police: Woman slain as she tried to leave KKK rite

COVINGTON, La. (AP)—An Oklahoma woman invited to a rural Louisiana campsite for a Ku Klux Klan initiation ritual was shot and killed after she asked to be taken back to town, the sheriff of a New Orleans suburb said Tuesday. Eight people were arrested after authorities found the woman's body hidden under some brush, on the side of a road several miles from the remote campsite where the initiation was planned. Investigators found weapons, several flags and six Klan robes at the campsite, St. Tammany Parish Sheriff Jack Strain said in a news release. Strain said the woman, whose identity was not released, was recruited over the Internet to participate in the ritual and then return to her home state to find other members for the white supremacist group. But Strain said the group's leader, Raymond "Chuck" Foster, 44, shot and killed the woman Sunday after a fight broke out when she tried to leave. Foster was charged with second-degree murder and is being held without bond.

Asia

ASIAN BRIEFS

Pakistan: Militants seize convoy for US-led forces

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—Suspected Taliban fighters hijacked trucks carrying Humvees and other supplies for U.S.-led troops in Afghanistan, authorities said Tuesday after a brazen attack near the Khyber Pass that underscored the militants' grip across key mountain strongholds. The assault highlighted the vulnerability of a vital supply route for the 65,000 U.S. and NATO forces battling a resurgent Taliban in landlocked Afghanistan. A significant amount of supplies for the Western forces go through Pakistan. Separately, in the nearby city of Peshawar, gunmen blocked the car of an American aid worker on Wednesday and killed him and his Pakistani driver, police said. Attacks on convoys carrying food, fuel and other supplies are common on the road. But Monday's raid was especially large and well-organized. It also could further strain U.S.-Pakistani relations over rooting out Taliban and al-Qaida militants along the border, which remain entrenched despite military offensives and U.S. missile strikes.

Myanmar: Long sentences for democracy advocates

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Courts in military-ruled Myanmar delivered a devastating blow Tuesday to the nation's pro-democracy movement, sentencing two dozen activists to harsh prison terms that will keep them behind bars long past a 2010 election. Fourteen members of the Generation 88 Students group were sentenced to prison terms of 65 years each, and a labor activist, Su Su Nway, was sentenced to 12 1/2 years. Ten people allied with Nobel Peace laureate Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy got jail terms of eight to 24 years. Many of the activists were involved in protests last year that led to huge pro-democracy demonstrations that the army put down by force. According to U.N. estimates, at least 31 people were killed and thousands of demonstrators were detained. Many fled the country or went underground. Most of the sentences were handed down in closed-court sessions. The lengths of the terms suggest the junta will pay little heed to calls from the U.N. and many Western nations to make its self-styled transition to democracy more fair and inclusive.

Taiwan's Chen ordered detained

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—A Taiwanese court ordered former President Chen Shui-bian held on corruption charges Wednesday, an ignominious decision for a man who won acclaim for standing up to China with pro-independence policies.

The ruling came at the end of a marathon 21-hour court hearing that began with lengthy interrogation Tuesday but was interrupted by a trip to the hospital and didn't conclude until dawn Wednesday.

Chen, who has denied any wrongdoing, was ordered detained under an order that does not constitute an indictment. He can be held for four months before being formally charged.

As prosecutors prepare their case, he is expected to be held in the same jail in suburban Taipei where, as a dissident leader 21 years ago, he served eight months for defaming an official of the ruling Nationalist Party during the waning days of Taiwan's infamous martial law regime.

The hearing was interrupted for several hours after the former leader complained that he had been injured while being transported from a prosecutors' office to the nearby court building. He was returned to the court after doctors found he had sustained only a minor muscle tear, said court spokesman Huang Chun-ming.

Chen

Wednesday's court order has implications beyond Taiwan, where he is reviled by millions for his apparent toleration for corruption. But he is also lionized by millions for his willingness to stand up to both Chinese threats and American opposition to his anti-China line.

China insists that Taiwan is part of Chinese territory and has threatened war if the island moves to make its 59-year break with the mainland permanent.

Chen was also criticized repeatedly by the United States, Taiwan's most important foreign partner, over the China issue. During Chen's recently concluded presidency, Chen was often seen by U.S. officials as a loose cannon who could provoke a Chinese invasion.

Chen denies any suggestion that his pro-independence policies are provocative.

He defiantly predicted his arrest and tried to link it to alleged attempts by his successor, President Ma Ying-jeou, to placate China. Ma has made reconciliation with China the centerpiece of his six-month-old administration.

North Korea to halt border crossings with South

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea said Wednesday it will ban land crossings at its border with South Korea starting next month because of what it calls the South's confrontational stance.

The North's military is taking action to "restrict and cut off all the overland passage" across the frontier beginning Dec. 1, the country's official Korean Central News Agency said. The move comes amid heightened tensions on the peninsula and repeated accusations from the North that Seoul's conservative government is engaging in "confrontational" activities.

Prohibiting passage through the Demilitarized Zone dividing the two Koreas primarily would affect South Koreans working in an inter-Korean business complex in Kaesong and tours to the ancient city just across the border in the North.

The KCNA report did not say how long the ban would remain in place.

South Korean Unification Ministry spokesman Kim Hong-nyeon expressed regret over the North's decision. He said the threat would have a negative influence on reconciliation efforts on the divided penisula.

The Kaesong industrial complex, where South Korean companies have set up 88 factories employing some 35,000 North Koreans, has been a key source of hard currency for the impoverished North. The complex and a jointly run resort at Diamond Mountain in the North were seen as a prominent symbols of inter-Korean reconciliation on the divided peninsula.

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World

Battle for Iraq's 3rd city hangs in the balance

MOSUL, Iraq (AP)—It's not a pretty sight: Sagging skeletons of two- and three-story buildings under a threatening gray sky. Abandoned shops with corrugated iron fronts riddled by bullet holes. And amid the garbage heaps and pools of fetid rainwater, a roadside bomb set to explode.

Five years after the U.S.-led invasion and following a significant drop in violence nationwide over the past year, the battle for Mosul, Iraq's third largest city, still waxes and wanes.

"This is our hottest area," says Sgt. 1st Class Ron Corella, a decorated combat veteran in this war-scarred quarter of the ancient city where moments before his troops spotted—and disarmed—that roadside bomb.

"The enemy knows that if we gain a foothold and they can't push us out, it's another safe haven they have lost. So they have to fight," Corella added.

■ ■ ■

BAGHDAD (AP)—Ten Iraqi insurgent groups have agreed to escalate attacks against U.S. and Iraqi forces to derail the proposed U.S.-Iraqi security agreement, an Internet monitoring service said Tuesday.

The declaration against "the agreement of disgrace" was announced Nov. 4 in an audio speech by Sheik Abu Wael, a top leader of the Sunni militant Ansar al-Sunnah, who invited other insurgent groups to join, the SITE Intelligence Group said.

The security agreement would keep U.S. soldiers in Iraq until 2012.

"Such kinds of agreements are not negated by mere statements of condemnation and denunciation," the sheik said. "Rather, there is necessity for work, jihad, fighting those forces the enemy and those who are loyal to them to recant this agreement"

In his speech, the sheik invited over 15 factions to join. Most of them posted statements accepting the invitation, SITE said.

Those groups also include the Jihad and Change Front, Islamic Army in Iraq, Hamas-Iraq, and the Mujahedeen Army in Iraq, SITE said.

■ ■ ■

Lt. Col. Robert Molinari, executive officer of the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, says Mosul "looks like Baghdad about 18 months ago" at the height of violence in the Iraqi capital.

It was the generally successful pacification of Baghdad—the fruit of the so-called troop surge—that drew al-Qaida and other insurgents to this hub of northern Iraq to open a new battleground and safeguard their infiltration and supply routes.

But on-off security clampdowns, a lack of aid money and a power struggle between Kurds and Sunni Arabs are also blamed for Mosul's woes.

In the city's version of the Baghdad surge, 22,000 U.S. forces and Iraqi troops and police have spread out in an operation called "Mother of Two Springs—taken from an Arab nickname for Mosul—that began in May and went into a new phase Oct. 15.

AP

An Iraqi man holds his beads as a A U.S. Army soldier, of Iron Hawk, Third Squadron, Third Armored Cavalry Regiment, walks during a patrol in Tal Kaeef, north of Mosul, 360 kilometers (225 miles) northwest of Baghdad, Iraq, on Tuesday, Nov. 11, 2008.

French town honors last US soldier killed in WWI

NANCY, France (AP)—One minute before the guns fell silent on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918, World War I took its last American victim.

Henry Gunther was hit by German machine gun fire at 10:59 a.m. in the northeastern French town of Chaumont-devant-Damvillers in a final-minute clash with German troops.

A monument honoring the 23-year-old from Baltimore, Maryland, was erected in Chaumont-devant-Damvillers before Tuesday's 90th anniversary of the Nov. 11, 1918, armistice that ended the bloody four-year conflict.

The town's mayor, Pierre Lenhard, said Gunther had largely been forgotten by French historians.

"I found the reference (to Gunther) when I was looking through the archives," said Lenhard, himself a historian. "This soldier isn't mentioned in any French documents."

Gunther, an employee of the National Bank of Baltimore, arrived in France in July 1918 as a staff sergeant in the 313th Infantry Regiment. A letter he sent to a friend complaining of living conditions was intercepted by military censors, and he was demoted to the rank of private, Lenhard said.

Gunther then volunteered to be a messenger.

On that fateful Nov. 11, his regiment took up position in Chaumont-devant-Damvillers. Gunther and a fellow American soldier made for the German lines, bayonets fixed, Lenhard said. The Germans, who at 10:45 a.m. knew that the armistice was to take effect at 11 a.m., fired into the air above their heads. The two soldiers hit the ground, but Gunther got back up on his feet and surged ahead—only to be gunned down.

Peru offers national hairless dog to Obamas

LIMA, Peru (AP)—Completely bald and older than the Incas, the Peruvian hairless dog seems like an odd fit for the White House.

But Peruvians are mindful of President-elect Barack Obama's preference for a hypoallergenic breed due to his daughter Malia's allergies—and say the dark, rough-skinned pooch with large ears and a pointy snout could be just the solution.

At his first postelection news conference on Friday, Obama said choosing a pet dog for his daughters is a "major issue."

"It has to be hypoallergenic. On the other hand, our preference would be to get a shelter dog, but a lot of shelter dogs are mutts like me," the president-elect said.

The Friends of the Peruvian Hairless Dog Association responded on Monday, sending a letter to the U.S. Embassy in Peru offering the Obama family a 4-month-old pup that responds to "Machu Picchu," the name of Peru's famed Inca citadel.

Egypt unveils discovery of 4,300-year-old pyramid

SAQQARA, Egypt (AP)—Archaeologists have discovered a new pyramid under the sands of Saqqara, an ancient burial site that has yielded a string of unearthed pyramids in recent years but remains largely unexplored.

The 4,300-year-old monument most likely belonged to the queen mother of the founder of Egypt's 6th Dynasty, and was built several hundred years after the famed Great Pyramids of Giza, antiquities chief Zahi Hawass told reporters in announcing the find Tuesday.

The discovery is part of the sprawling necropolis and burial site of the rulers of ancient Memphis, the capital of Egypt's Old Kingdom, about 12 miles south of Giza.

All that remains of the pyramid is a 16-foot-tall structure that had been buried under 65 feet of sand.

"There was so much sand dumped here that no one had any idea there was something buried underneath," said Hawass.

Hawass' team had been excavating at the location for two years, but only determined two months ago that the structure, with sides about 72 feet long, was the base of a pyramid. The pyramid is the 118th discovered so far in Egypt, and the 12th to be found in Saqqara. Most are in ruins; only about a dozen pyramids remain intact across the country.

Archaeologists also found parts of the pyramid's white limestone casing—believed to have once covered the entire structure—which enabled them to calculate that the complete pyramid was once 45 feet high.

AP

A four-month-old puppy called "Machu Picchu" is seen in Lima, Tuesday, Nov. 11, 2008.

WORLD BRIEFS

UN says Congolese troops raped, pillaged villages

GOMA, Congo (AP)—Hundreds of Congolese soldiers rampaged through several villages in eastern Congo, raping women and pillaging homes as they pulled back ahead of a feared rebel advance, the U.N. reported Tuesday. Meanwhile, neighboring Angola said it was mobilizing troops to send to Congo, though Angolan Deputy Foreign Minister Georges Chicoty did not specify how many or what their mission will be. Southern African regional leaders meeting at a summit Sunday had discussed sending troops to reinforce the scattered Congolese army near Goma. The provincial capital has been besieged by rebels loyal to renegade Gen. Laurent Nkunda since he reached the outskirts. The rebels have promised to fight any African troops that aid the Congolese army.

Secular candidate probable winner in Jerusalem

JERUSALEM (AP)—Secular businessman Nir Barkat appeared headed toward victory early Wednesday over an ultra-Orthodox Jewish leader in Jerusalem's mayoral race, a contest that again exposed the deep divide between religious and secular Israelis. With nearly all of the results in, Israel's Channel 2 TV reported that just over 52 percent of the city's voters had supported Barkat over Meir Porush. That tally was matched by the country's two other main television stations and the Web sites of all three major newspapers. Barkat claimed victory before dawn and promised to be "everybody's mayor." "I'm aware of the depth of the challenge and the complexity of the mission. Now is the time to work together for the good of the city," Barkat, a technology investor and former paratroops officer, told his supporters. Porush received just over 43 percent of the vote, according to Channel 2 and the Web site of Israel's largest newspaper, Yediot Ahronot.

Environment

Controlling the brown tree snake population

Jessica R. Soll

By JESSICA R. SOLL
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

After World War II in the mid-'40s, troops began moving cargo to the island of Guam. This is when the brown tree snake was introduced. It is believed that it took only one female brown tree snake that got to Guam through shipped cargo from the Solomon Islands to have had the snake's population survive in Guam.

For over 40 years, the snake continued to reproduce in the Apra Harbor area in Guam, and in 1985 people began to notice that something was going wrong. Many birds on the island began to disappear. Julie Savage was featured in a book called And no Birds Sing, telling the story of the brown tree snake, though many people did not believe her, and thought that the birds were dying from certain diseases. In 1989, $30,000 in funding for brown tree snake control came for the CNMI. The treat increased to other islands that received cargo from Guam and the program expanded. So, in 2007, the funding for brown tree snake control was $6.4 million, which was divided between Guam, Hawaii, the CNMI, and FSM.

There are four different ways used to control the population of the brown tree snake in the CMNI. There are traps, dogs, containment barriers, and education.

Traps are set up in places such as airports to try and capture the snakes. There are about 500 traps set up in the CNMI; each trap costs about $85.

Dogs are also used to try and catch the snakes. There are six specially trained dogs—one on Tinian and five on Saipan—used to sniff out the snakes. These dogs are also trained to sniff out other creatures such as coconut crabs, sea turtles, and bats, partly to keep them busy, and partly to help protect other animals.

Barriers are another type of brown tree snake control. These are walls that are about four feet high with overhangs to put cargo in so snakes inside cannot escape.

Education is also used for brown tree snake control. By teaching others about the brown tree snake, people can help protect our environment.

Some people ask why we should try to control the brown tree snake. Well, there are many reasons why we try to control the snakes and some are quite important.

The brown tree snake is a predator to animals such as birds, chickens, dogs, and cats. Basically, they will eat anything except for cane toads, which give them bad reactions. One type of bird that they eat, the Nightingale Reed Warbler, is an endangered species. The snake however, does not have any predators and is the worst type of snake to have because they are camouflaged, nocturnal, and live in trees so they cannot be seen.

Guam loses about $1 million to $4 million a year due to power outages, because approximately every three days or so, the snakes cause power outages when they try to eat the birds resting on power lines.

One out of every 1,000 people admitted into the hospital in Guam are there due to the brown tree snake.

Many people may think that there is no use worrying over the brown tree snake. But if you really think about it, there is. The snakes don't look that dangerous and are not usually seen, but they can cause a lot more damage than people would assume. The main use of controlling the brown tree snake is to protect our environment, and our people. We do not want to have any of our birds listed as endangered species because the brown tree snake has established itself in the CNMI. If you see a brown tree snake, contact Fish and Wildlife immediately at 28-SNAKE (287-6253).

This article was written for CoCo by Jessica R. Soll, a 10th grader at Saipan International School.

EPA.gov is now your Web site

EPA is opening the doors on a new, more interactive, and task-oriented Web site designed to meet users' needs. We've heard from our audience—the American people—and they are interested in more than just reading about EPA programs on the Web. Citizens want to participate in protecting the environment in which they live and work. People want an active voice in what happens at EPA. They want to find topics of interest to them quickly.

ON THE NET
http://www.epa.gov
http://blog.epa.gov/blog/

"EPA has heard the voice of the people loud and clear! We're going to do everything possible to make participating in environmental protection a reality," said Molly O'Neill, EPA's Chief Information Officer and assistant administrator for the Office of Environmental Information. "We're using Web 2.0 technologies to give citizens a Web site that is more interactive, uses multimedia tools, and is better organized by what they want to do or know."

The new design includes:

■ Links to immediate actions people can take to protect the environment at home or in their community:
- How can I make my home more energy-efficient?
- What and where can I recycle?
- How do I learn about environmental conditions in my community?
- What can my community do to help to prevent pollution?

■ Interactive media like blogs so people can:
- Post comments to our blog "Greenversations"
- Comment on proposed regulations
- Bookmark EPA pages with Digg It.

■ Web 2.0 Tools to inform people on EPA activities:
- RSS news feeds to provide information to subscribers
- Videos and podcasts
- Widgets to put EPA information on their Web site.

Take YOUR new Web site out for a "test drive": http://www.epa.gov. And please use the blog http://blog.epa.gov/blog/ to let EPA know how it runs. ***(EPA)***

Four recycling tips for your home

CoCo

Save energy, resources and cut down on garbage by using stuff over and over. Here are four ways you can reuse things around your home.

Be a paper saver

Instead of throwing good "slightly used" writing paper away, keep it for notes. Start with a small, cardboard box as a holder. Put the box in a convenient, accessible location. This can be near the telephone, kitchen, desk or homework station. Place all used paper in this box, marking an "X" on the used side, with the blank side facing up. Whenever someone needs paper, you have it handy.

Start a 'save-it' drawer

Perhaps you already have a "junk" or "miscellaneous" drawer. Start by cleaning this drawer, discarding objects that are broken. If you can't find a drawer to use, try storing things in a cardboard box, like a shoebox, or a reusable plastic container.

Whatgoes in a save-it drawer? Just about anything you want to save. A few things to include are: envelopes, paper clips, twist ties, safety pins, rubber bands, buttons, string, thumbtacks (push-pins), tape, etc.

Reuse plastic containers

A few reusable plastic containers (ice cream, yogurt, cottage cheese, etc.) are perfect for storing small items like crayons, buttons, paper clips or safety pins. They are also great for leftovers or as snack containers on the go.

Before using, completely wash containers with soap and water. Label each container (using a masking tape and permanent marker) and store them in easy and accessible areas.

Make a 'craft box'

Similar to the save-it drawer, a craft box is the perfect solution for those loose markers, paper, glue, paint, crayons, yarn, etc. You can keep scrap fabrics, thread spools, pie tins, clean popsicle sticks, toilet paper rolls, clean drinking straws, mismatched socks, corks, etc. ***(CoCo)***

EPA encourages Americans to bring their green to work

EPA has revealed a new online tool, Energy Star @ Work, to provide Americans with tips and information on how to save energy and protect the environment in the workplace. Energy use in commercial buildings and manufacturing plants accounts for nearly half of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions and nearly 50 percent of energy consumption nationwide. With the average American worker spending almost 8 hours a day at their place of employment, the workplace offers a unique opportunity for people to make a significant impact in the fight against climate change.

"Millions of Americans are already doing their part to save energy by being more energy efficient at home," said Robert J. Meyers, EPA's principal deputy assistant administrator for Air and Radiation. "With help from EPA's Energy Star program, we can also take many of the same energy efficient steps in the workplace."

Energy Star @ Work is an animated image of a typical office work space with tips and links to valuable information employees can use on a daily basis—from starting a Green Team in the office to simply changing a desk lamp bulb. Simple actions by employees can make a big difference in the overall energy performance of a building. Some of the tips included in the Energy Star @ Work tool include:

■ Replace the bulbs in desk lamps with Energy Star qualified compact fluorescent light bulbs. These light bulbs use about 75 percent less energy than incandescent bulbs and last up to 10 times longer. Energy Star qualified lamps and light fixtures also are available for even more energy savings.

■ Use a power strip as a central "turn off" point when you are done using office equipment to completely disconnect the power supply. Even when turned off, electronic and IT equipment often use a small amount of electricity when plugged in.

■ Remember to turn off your lights when leaving conference rooms and your work space, especially at the end of the day.

■ Use Energy Star qualified battery chargers or power adapters which, on average, use 30-35 percent less energy than conventional models. Don't forget to unplug battery chargers or power adapters when equipment is fully charged or disconnected from the charger.

■ Get involved! Create a Green Team with your co-workers, help reduce office waste, and set a goal to earn the Energy Star label for your building. ***(EPA)***

Life & Style

Sources: Laura Bush looking into book deal

NEW YORK (AP)—Laura Bush wants to write a memoir and will be meeting with several publishers, according to three publishing executives with knowledge of the proceedings.

They asked not to be identified, saying discussions are in the early stages and highly confidential.

The sources said the first lady is being represented by high-powered Washington attorney Robert Barnett, whose clients include President-elect Barack Obama and former President Clinton.

Barnett, who worked with Mrs. Bush on a children's book published this year by HarperCollins, declined to comment Tuesday when contacted by The Associated Press.

An object of fascination even among those who didn't vote for her husband, the first lady has said little about her private life or her White House years. She's known as a passionate reader, and a book contract could rival Hillary Rodham Clinton's $8 million deal for 2003's "Living History."

AP

President Bush and first lady Laura Bush, welcome President-elect Obama and his wife Michelle Obama to the White House in Washington, Monday, Nov. 10,2008.

While publishers have urged President Bush to hold off on shopping a proposal, citing his poor approval ratings, they have expressed great enthusiasm about his wife.

Sally McDonough, Mrs. Bush's spokeswoman, said Tuesday that the first lady "has expressed interest in writing a book after she leaves" the White House and is pursuing the prospect. But she would not discuss or confirm whether the first lady's private schedule has included any meetings with publishers.

"I'm sure when there is a book deal, there will be an announcement," McDonough said.

Separately, President Bush said in a TV interview Tuesday: "I will probably write a book."

He told CNN that he is only beginning to think about what the book would say.

"I want people to know what it's like to make some of the decisions I had to make," he said. "What was the moment like. I've had one of these presidencies where I had to make some tough calls. I want people to know the truth about what it was like sitting in the Oval Office. But it's going to take a lot of thought and a lot of work to get it out and it will be an interesting project."

Drawing Obama: An open letter to the nation's cartoonists

By MICHAEL CAVNA
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Excerpted from Michael Cavna's Comic Riffs blog (http://voices.washingtonpost.com/comic-riffs/) on washingtonpost.com.

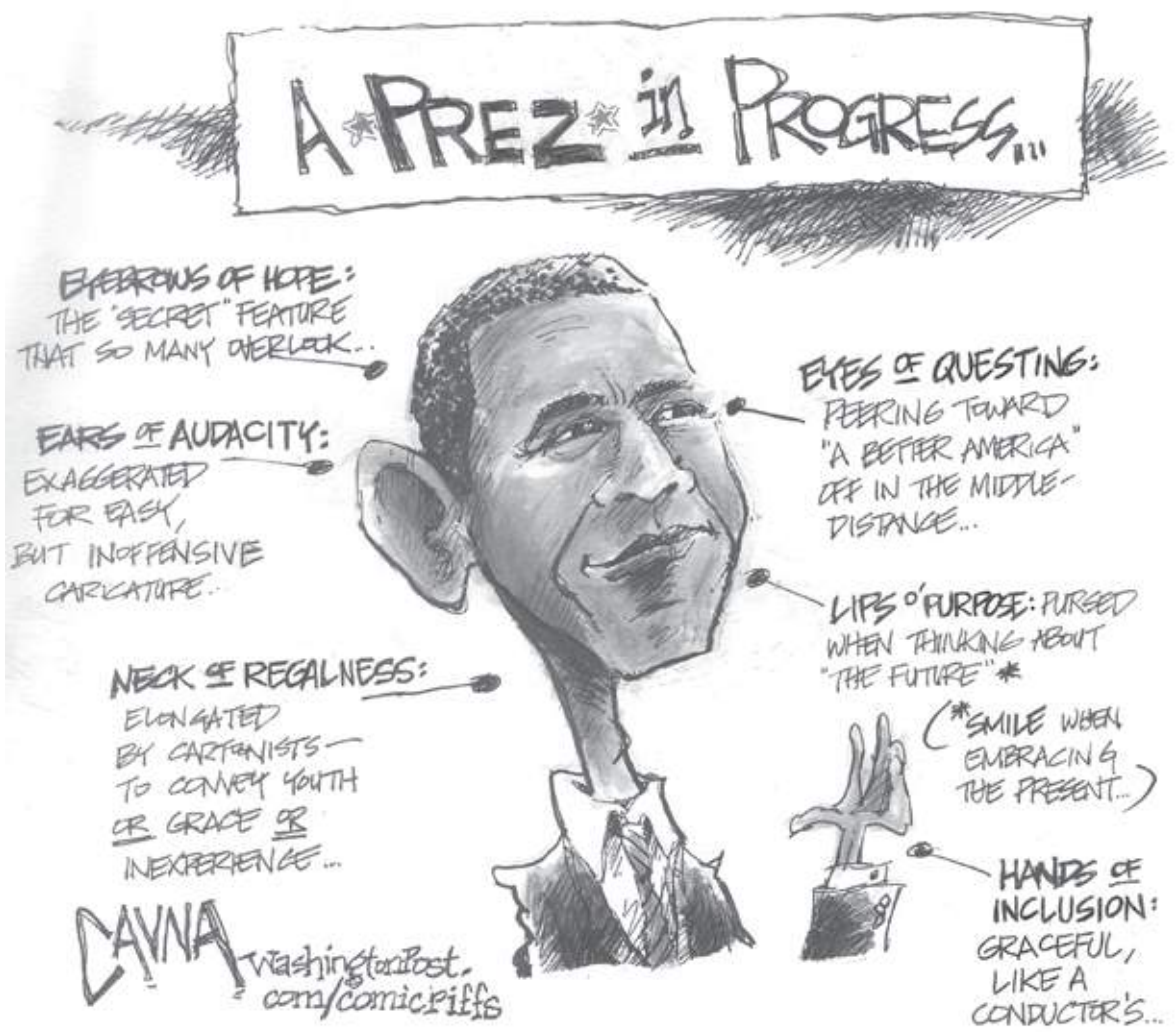
WASHINGTON—It's been a long, sometimes daunting road to Barack Obama's presidential victory. Artistic mistakes were made along the way, and occasionally, some cartoonists did not display the necessary vision. But those mistakes are in the past—it's a brand new day, and a time for a fresh aesthetic beginning.

So with that in mind, Comic Riffs beseeches the nation's cartoonists with one simple request—a call to excellence, if you will: Draw an even better Obama.

Now make no mistake: This is not a slam or slight. As we've seen with "Saturday Night Live" impressions, it can take months, sometimes years for superior interpretations of political figures to emerge. And many cartoonists are now creating perfectly fine Obama caricatures. But now, as we move toward inauguration, we call upon the best and brightest to deliver new artistic greatness.

Do we here at Comic Riffs hold ourselves exempt from this mandate? No—no, we do not. Nearly a year ago, I wrestled with my Obama illustrations—just as I did with my Huckabees and Romneys, Giulianis and Clintons, and even a rogue McCain. Now, these many months of candidate familiarity later, I am confident that the nation's caricaturists—the men and women charged with drawing Obama daily—will set new standards.

For decades, of course, great cartoonists have given us iconic Nixons, sublimes Reagans and deftly rendered Clintons. So it is that now, Obama deserves the height of cartoon equality: His own caricature that causes all to "ooh" and "ahh" with recognition of utter rightness. It's a tall order. Can you do it, my fellow cartoonists? Yes—yes you can.


A PREZ in PROGRESS...
EYEBROWS OF HOPE: THE 'SECRET' FEATURE THAT SO MANY OVERLOOK...
EARS OF AUDACITY: EXAGGERATED FOR EASY, BUT INOFFENSIVE CARICATURE...
EYES OF QUESTING: PEERING TOWARD "A BETTER AMERICA" OFF IN THE MIDDLE-DISTANCE...
LIPS O' PURPOSE: PURSED WHEN THINKING ABOUT "THE FUTURE"*
(*SMILE WHEN EMBRACING THE PRESENT...)
NECK OF REGALNESS: ELONGATED BY CARTOONISTS— TO CONVEY YOUTH OR GRACE OR INEXPERIENCE...
HANDS OF INCLUSION: GRACEFUL, LIKE A CONDUCTER'S...
CAVNA washingtonpost.com/comicriffs

THE WASHINGTON POST

For decades, great cartoonists have given us iconic Nixons, sublimes Reagans and deftly rendered Clintons. Now Barack Obama deserves a great caricature. This sketch breaks down the rich possibilities.

Jill Jackson's HOLLYWOOD

Johnny Depp

By JILL JACKSON
(C) 2008 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

HOLLYWOOD—I don't know how it is with kids today, but when I was young, "Alice in Wonderland" was IT! The book, the film and the storytelling. Now Disney is to make another version with Johnny Depp playing the Mad Hatter. He should be perfect in the role. As of now, I don't know much more about the casting, but rest assured I'll keep you posted. ... Meanwhile, Johnny goes about town in his weird "get-ups" and can be counted on to add color wherever he does go.

Nick Nolte also runs about town in weird get-ups, and his career keeps rolling along. The tousle-haired Mr. N. (whom you're just likely to see in his pajamas at a deli) next goes into a drama titled "Arcadia Lost." This about step-siblings whose first family trip is cut short by a car crash. The stunned teens then roam the Greek countryside and befriend an expatriate vagabond (Nolte). He leads them to a mysterious spiritual ceremony. I won't reveal the rest. I presume you know that Nolte first worked as an ironworker, and then as a model. He is quoted as saying, "Early on I decided I was going to lie to the press. The best approach to talking about my personal life was to lie." Hmmmmm!

Siblings Christopher and Judy Lewis will team to produce a TV/cable documentary based on the book by Ruth Probst titled "The Little Black Book for Blue People." Christopher and Judy are the son and daughter of Loretta Young. Judy is best known for her role in "General Hospital." She also will narrate this film. ... And further on the subject of books being made into a film. There's a beauty of a book out titled "The Magic and Mystery of Vera-Ellen" (Luminary Press). It's loaded with pictures and anecdotes from the past. Actress Di Dean will play Vera-Ellen in the film to be made from the book.

Steven Spielberg is at it again. Still another "way out" film coming up (he hopes). This one based on the science-fiction novel titled "Chocky," about a boy who has an imaginary friend with whom he constantly argues. His father becomes suspicious when it becomes clear that an alien entity has taken up residence in his subconscious. At this writing, Steven is still trying to get the rights from the publishers.

To all of you who have written and asked, and for me, too. At last I have found out what's in that black cup on David Letterman's desk from which he takes a sip, and so does a guest. First, I figured water, then Jamba juice (which he loves) and then I figured maybe a bit of booze. But no. He recently referred to the content: DECAF COFFEE!

Rachel McAdams gets the role of Sherlock Holmes' love interest Irene Adler in the upcoming film about the great sleuth. Robert Downey Jr. is Sherlock. ... And while on the subject of the sleuth, did you know that 20 actors have portrayed Holmes in the past, and Downey will make it 21. Some of the well-known names are Raymond Massey, Basil Rathbone, Peter Cook and Christopher Plummer.

■■■

BITS 'N' A PIECES: The push for Oscar has started. ... Paris has been behaving quite primly of late. Let's hope she keeps it that way. Or is it more fun when she doesn't? ... And did you know that although Humphrey Bogart was born on Jan. 14, Warner Bros Pictures announced he was born on Christmas Day to make his bio more romantic?

Conductor drops out of concert for Prince Charles

LONDON (AP)—Plans for Italian conductor Riccardo Muti to perform at Buckingham Palace on Thursday for Prince Charles' 60th birthday party have collapsed.

Muti had been expected to conduct the London-based Philharmonia Orchestra at the gala party hosted by Queen Elizabeth II the day before Charles, her eldest son, turns 60.

But orchestra spokeswoman Alice Walton said talks were held on the subject but plans were dropped due to logistical reasons.

"Unfortunately, it was not possible to bring this idea to fruition due to logistical difficulties, but it is hoped that it may be possible for the Orchestra and Maestro Muti to pursue a future such opportunity together," she said Tuesday.

Britain's Daily Mail newspaper reported that Muti canceled his performance because he was angry that he had been asked to shorten his program.

Muti told Corriere della Sera, an Italian newspaper, that he dropped out because the program changed.

"The thing fell apart on its own. For ceremonial reasons that I don't know, the program was shortened and it was decided that the orchestra would only play 'God Save the Queen' and another piece by a British musician," Muti was quoted as saying.

"Originally, I agreed with pleasure to direct, I have excellent relations with the royal family. The queen has come to La Scala, she also gave me the honor of nominating me as Knight of the British Empire. And then Charles cares a lot about the Philharmonia Orchestra, of which he is a patron. It's just that the program was changed," he was quoted as saying.

A Buckingham Palace spokesman would not comment on the matter except to say the party was a private event organized by the queen. No details about its guest list, menu, or performances have been released.

The Philharmonia Orchestra, which performs about 100 concerts in Britain each year, is now expected to perform a set of chamber music at the concert.

Earlier this year, Muti was named music director of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and will join them for the 2010-2011 season.

AP

Britain's Prince Charles leaves the Douaumont memorial, near Verdun, eastern France, following ceremonies marking the 90th anniversary of World War I Armistice, Tuesday, Nov. 11, 2008.

Kardashian and Bush enjoying down time in N.O.

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—As New Orleans Saints running back Reggie Bush recovers from knee surgery, he and girlfriend Kim Kardashian are enjoying the down time.

In recent weeks, they've gone bowling, enjoyed movies and dined at some of their favorite restaurants in the city. But Kardashian, a recent competitor on ABC's "Dancing With the Stars," says one of their favorite things to do is playing video games.

"Reggie is really competitive," Kardashian said Tuesday after previewing the new Nintendo Wii game, "Rayman Raving Rabbids TV Party," with Bush at a downtown hotel. "At first I was winning, then he came back and beat me."

Bush, who's recovering from arthroscopic surgery to repair a meniscus tear in his left knee, wasn't available for comment.

Kardashian, daughter of the late attorney Robert Kardashian, and her family are the subjects of the E! reality show "Keeping Up With the Kardashians." The series follows Kardashian's mother and business manager, Kris Jenner, as well as her stepfather, Bruce Jenner, and her siblings.

Viewers won't be able to catch Tuesday's video game session in the series, she said.

"We just chill out when I'm in New Orleans," she said. "It's not about work when I'm here. It's about spending time with Reggie."

Kardashian said they have been successful in their long-distance relationship by seeing each other often.

"Sometimes we've had to go 10 days, but we try not to let it go that far," she said. "We're dedicated. When you're committed to something and really want something, you make it work."

RECORD RACK

David Archuleta

"David Archuleta" (Jive)

✪ ☾

AP

Former "American Idol" contestant David Archuleta performs during MTV's "Total Request Live" at the MTV Times Square Studios Tuesday, Nov. 11, 2008 in New York. Archuleta's self-titled debut solo album hit stores Tuesday.

Why do "American Idol" fans consistently reward male pop singers for being entirely sexless on the show? Pouty lips and flirty lashes are practically entrance requirements for female singers, and "rocker" guys can bellow and strut to their content. But there's a kind of elfish contestant who always does well despite the possibility of vanishing in a cloud of unicorn glitter were he to sing something arousing.

Which brings us to the curious case of David Archuleta's debut album. It's an exacting distillation of a 13-year-old girl's wholesome romantic aspirations as imagined by 50-year-old label reps. Yet the show revealed that image is actually true to Archuleta's personality (albeit, one creepily stage-managed by his dad). It's as if Archuleta's influences as a singer were solely previous "Idol" contestants, and he's a blank screen for viewers to project onto via millions of speed-dialed votes.

Archuleta has one magisterial single, "Crush," that will smother all who encounter it with the refinement of its craft. But the record is larded with awkward modernist R&B, Christian semaphore ballads like "You Can" and warm-milk mewling that makes David Cook, Archuleta's "Idol" foe, sound like Robert Plant.

The best teen pop is often code for exploring more dangerous ideas, yet Archuleta counts Tamyra Gray and Kelly Clarkson as influences in his liner notes. Kids deserve more salacious pandering than that. ***(August Brown/Los Angeles Times)***

Q-Tip

"The Renaissance" (Universal Motown)

✪ ✪ ✪ ☾

Q-Tip's 2003 solo album, "Kamaal the Abstract," was never released by Arista, which doubted its commercial appeal. That decision touched off a period in which the Queens, N.Y., native jumped from label to label in the middle of creating new work. Now he returns with his second official solo album, "The Renaissance," a casually complex, brilliantly executed work of neo-soul made for the street philosopher.

The former de facto front man of the landmark '90s hip-hop group A Tribe Called Quest immediately dispenses with legend, rapping wearily in his trademark nasal flow, "I'm not a deity / I'm far from perfect, see," on the opening track, "Johnny Is Dead."

Although he gripes that fans are always bringing up Tribe, "The Renaissance" is a showcase for Q-Tip's cool consciousness. The trait has made him one of hip-hop's most admired MCs -- even when chiding a cheating girlfriend on "You," he's reflective and tender.

Norah Jones, channeling her inner Nelly Furtado, appears on the bright and smooth "Life Is Better"; and "We Fight, We Love," with Raphael Saadiq, is one of the album's standout tracks, a sophisticated take on a complicated relationship made even more so by the man fighting in Iraq.

Kamaal Fareed, the name Q-Tip took in the mid-'90s after converting to Islam, is at the helm here, but like a good actor, he's knows how to draw power even when he's not letting the rhymes go. It's a renaissance with redemption and humility but also maybe, if the adage about success is true, a touch of sweet revenge. ***(Margaret Wappler/Los Angeles Times)***

Little Joy

"Little Joy" (Rough Trade)

✪ ✪ ☾

Little Joy, a new band featuring Strokes drummer Fabrizio Moretti with Binki Shapiro and Rodrigo Amarante, is named after a Los Angeles bar notorious for encouraging countless lost weekends among the neighborhood's coterie of musicians. So it's fitting that the band's debut album of slight and easygoing Caribbean-indie seems tailor-made for easing a tousle-headed rocker out of a Sunday afternoon hangover.

"Little Joy's" pleasures are appropriately small and fleeting, but there are plenty of them. There's a bit of Devendra Banhart's assimilated Tropicalia on "No One's Better Sake," and Amarante's crooner's tenor is wrapped in a fuzzy Buddy Holly reverb that makes the record feel like an unexpected crate-digging find.

For such an unassuming album, the production is unexpectedly crafty. The band sneaks bits of doo-wop harmonies and odd percussion in the margins that can be enjoyed or ignored at your leisure.

Little Joy's charmingly lazy songwriting makes no gesture at becoming anything beyond an excellent dinner-party soundtrack. But in these trying times for art and political life, such warm-hearted mood music at least will make your headaches go away. ***(August Brown/Los Angeles Times)***

Brad Paisley

"Play" (Arista Nashville)

✪ ✪ ✪ ☾

Brad Paisley might be one of contemporary country music's master wordsmiths, but on his fifth album, he hardly says a word. With "Play," a largely instrumental collection, Paisley shows off his jaw-dropping musical chops. Despite the fretboard fireworks, this is an honest love letter to the art of musicmaking.

Paisley covers an impressively broad stylistic range that includes the ghost-surfers-in-the-sky vibe of "Turf's Up," the hard Texas blues of "Playing With Fire" and the sweet balladry of "Kim," a wordless love song for his wife. He might be out of his league vocally in his duet with B.B. King on one of the blues great's signature tunes; both still manage to "Let the Good Times Roll" anyway.

He also offers up salutes to guitar hero Les Paul and one of his own mentors, Buck Owens. The pairing with Owens might be the album's highlight, a posthumous duet that niftily quotes Buck's great country instrumental "Buckaroo," then retools his 1964 song "Hello Trouble" on its way to completing a latter-day recording its composer never finished.

Country radio will want to jump all over "Start a Band," a duet with Keith Urban channeling the joy of strumming in the company of like-minded buds, but only true guitar geeks will be able to sort out who's playing what on "Cluster Pluck." It's a six-stringed summit of Paisley, James Burton, Vince Gill, Albert Lee, John Jorgenson, Brent Mason, Redd Volkaert and Steve Wariner. ***(Randy Lewis/ Los Angeles Times)***

Album scale: one star (poor) to four (excellent).

AP PHOTO/VOGUE

In this image released by Vogue, Jennifer Aniston graces the cover of the December 2008 issue of "Vogue" magazine, available in stores on Nov. 19.

Aniston: Jolie was out of line about Pitt comments

NEW YORK (AP)—Jennifer Aniston says Angelina Jolie was out of line when she spilled details about her relationship with Brad Pitt while they were filming "Mr. & Mrs. Smith." In an interview in the December issue of Vogue, Aniston talks about the magazine's 2007 profile of Jolie, who talked about growing chummy with Pitt—then married to Aniston—while shooting the action film in 2004.

"There was stuff printed there that was definitely from a time when I was unaware that it was happening," Aniston says. "I felt those details were a little inappropriate to discuss. That stuff about how she couldn't wait to get to work every day? That was really uncool."

Jolie recently told The New York Times that she and Pitt fell in love on the "Mr. & Mrs. Smith" set.

Pitt and Aniston, who were married in July 2000, announced their separation in January 2005. In the months that followed, Pitt was seen in public with Jolie. Pitt and Aniston divorced in October.

In May 2006, Jolie gave birth to a daughter, Shiloh Jolie-Pitt. The couple now have six children, including 4-month-old twins who were born in July.

Aniston tells Vogue that she and Pitt are on good terms.

"We have exchanged a few very kind hellos and wishing you wells and sending you love and congratulations on your babies," she says. "I have nothing but absolute admiration for him, and ... I'm proud of him! I think he's really done some amazing things!"

Asked about her breakup, the 39-year-old actress says: "Well, it never was that bad. I mean, look, it's not like divorce is something that you go, 'Oooh, I can't wait to get divorced!' ... But I've got to tell you, it's so vague at this point, it's so faraway in my mind, I can't even remember the darkness. I mean, in the end, we really had an amicable split."

Aniston, who stars in the upcoming films "Marley & Me" and "He's Just Not That Into You," also dishes on her post-divorce romances with Vince Vaughn and John Mayer.

"I call Vince my defibrillator," she says of her co-star in 2006's "The Break-Up." "He literally brought me back to life. My first gasp of air was a big laugh! It was great. I love him. ... He was lovely and fun and perfect for the time we had together. And I needed that. And it sort of ran its course."

As for the tabloid fuss over her relationship with Mayer, she says: "Love just shows up and you go, 'Oh, wow, this is going to be a hayride and a half.'"

Aniston says she feels protective of the 31-year-old singer, who was criticized for talking to the media about how he ended their romance.

"Trust me, you'll never see that happen again from that man," she says. "And it doesn't take away from the fact that he is a wonderful guy. We care about each other."

NYC Election Board, Tim Robbins continue dispute

NEW YORK (AP)—Tim Robbins' difficulty in voting on Election Day was his own fault, New York City's Board of Elections maintains.

Board representative Gregory C. Soumas wrote a letter to Robbins, telling him that he was not on the rolls at the poll site he visited last week "because you simply went to the wrong poll site."

Soumas said Robbins filed a new voter registration form in February 2004, changing his voting address—which meant he had to vote elsewhere, about six blocks away.

The letter said Robbins should have gone to the new site and that this problem would have arisen earlier had Robbins voted in either the presidential primary in February or a second primary in September.

The confusion appears to stem from the double registration of Robbins—one his home address, the other his nearby office address—and the board eliminated one.

AP

This Sept. 18, 2008 file photo shows actor Tim Robbins arriving to the premiere of "The Lucky Ones," in New York.

The 50-year-old actor—a longtime resident of New York—strongly disagreed with the board's explanation.

He told The Associated Press he voted at his old polling place numerous times in recent elections (which Bettye J. Williamson, a longtime poll worker in his precinct, has verified) and was never notified that he should vote anywhere else.

"The system is in need of repair," said Robbins. "And the people that run it are pretty petty and vindictive when they would release to all the major newspapers in the New York area private information like your home address and your driver's license number."

Robbins thinks the board's actions were meant "to save face," and reiterated that he hoped his case brought attention to broader voter troubles.

"If it hadn't been for shenanigans like this, Obama's margin would have been much, much higher," he said.

A spokeswoman for the board didn't return a call Tuesday.

Greene sprints off 'Dancing with the Stars'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Maurice Greene won't be running around the "Dancing with the Stars" ballroom anymore.

The former sprinter and his professional partner, Cheryl Burke, were eliminated Tuesday from ABC's popular dancing competition. The pair received a total score of 48 out of 60 from judges for their quickstep and paso doble routines Monday. After viewer votes were combined with the judges' scores, the 34-year-old Olympic gold medalist was dismissed.

"I had a lot of fun," an upbeat Greene said after being eliminated. "I made a lot of new friends out here. I learned how to dance out here in front of millions of people every night. I had a great time."

The four remaining celebrity contestants—model-actress Brooke Burke, singer Lance Bass, former NFL star Warren Sapp and "Hannah Montana" actor Cody Linley—will compete in the semifinals. Linley will rejoin his professional partner, Julianne Hough, who missed two weeks of competition because of surgery to remove her appendix.

Previously dismissed were: actresses Susan Lucci and Cloris Leachman; singer Toni Braxton; chef Rocco DiSpirito; reality TV star Kim Kardashian; actor Ted McGinley and comedian Jeffrey Ross. Greene's fellow Olympian, volleyball player Misty May-Treanor, dropped out of the competition after rupturing her tendon.

AP

In this image released by ABC, Maurice Green and his partner Cheryl Burke perform on "Dancing with the Stars," Monday, Nov. 10, 2008, in Los Angeles.

TOP 20 TV SHOWS

Prime-time viewership numbers compiled by Nielsen Media Research for Nov. 3-9. Listings include the week's ranking, with viewership for the week and season-to-date rankings in parentheses. An "X" in parentheses denotes a one-time-only presentation.

1. (12) "60 Minutes," CBS, 18.47 million viewers.
2. (1) "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation," CBS, 18.18 million viewers.
3. (6) "NBC Sunday Night Football" (New York Giants at Philadelphia), NBC, 17.56 million viewers.
4. (2) "Dancing With The Stars," ABC, 17.09 million viewers.
5. (5) "Desperate Housewives," ABC, 15.854 million viewers.
6. (X) "Dancing With The Stars Result Special," ABC, 15.848 million viewers.
7. (4) "Grey's Anatomy," ABC, 15.74 million viewers.
8. (X) "Saturday Night Live Presidential Bash '08," NBC, 14.44 million viewers.
9. (8) "Criminal Minds," CBS, 14.3 million viewers.
10. (X) "Vote 2008," ABC, 14.19 million viewers.
11. (12) "Two And a Half Men," CBS, 12.76 million viewers.
12. (10) "CSI: Miami," CBS, 12.74 million viewers.
13. (17) "Cold Case," CBS, 12.69 million viewers.
14. (X) "Decision '08," NBC, 12.46 million viewers.
15. (15) "Survivor: Gabon," CBS, 12.01 million viewers.
16. (10) "CSI: NY," CBS, 11.80 million viewers.
17. (24) "Amazing Race 13," CBS, 11.71 million viewers.
18. (21) "Sunday Night NFL Pre-Kick," NBC, 11.40 million viewers.
19. (30) "Numb3rs," CBS, 11.28 million viewers.
20. (X) "NCIS," (Friday) CBS, 11.22 million viewers.

AP

This Sept. 28, 2007 file photo shows Bruce Springsteen as he appears with his band on the NBC "Today" television program in New York's Rockefeller Center.

Springsteen appears in food bank ad

HILLSIDE, N.J. (AP)—Bruce Springsteen wants to make sure one bank remains solvent: the Community Food Bank of New Jersey.

The singer will appear in a newspaper ad for the state's largest food bank that says: "We Can't Let This Bank Fail!"

Springsteen has been a supporter of the food bank for 23 years, often donating proceeds from concerts or encouraging fans to bring food donations to his shows. This is the first time he's lent his image to the anti-hunger campaign.

The Community Food Bank says the economy has resulted in a 30 percent increase in those needing food and could lead it to ration supplies for the first time in its 26-year history.

The food bank assists charities serving a half-million people each year.

Obama girls on 'Hannah Montana'? Maybe just talk

NEW YORK (AP)—This much is clear: The Obama daughters are welcome on the set of "Hannah Montana."

But any talk that 10-year-old Malia and 7-year-old Sasha are likely to appear on the popular Disney Channel show seems to be just that—talk. And it's been mostly from Billy Ray Cyrus, father of "Hannah Montana" star Miley Cyrus.

He told "Access Hollywood" on Monday that the young daughters of President-elect Barack Obama and his wife, Michelle, would "probably" be appearing on the show. "The invitation is there."

The 47-year-old country singer said he expected the guest shots to take place next spring.

"Maybe something might happen around then," he said.

The Obama camp could not confirm any invitation, apart from a statement released Tuesday by the Disney Channel saying: "We're pleased that Malia and Sasha are fans and, as long as their parents say it's OK, they are invited to the set of `Hannah Montana' and all Disney Channel shows, for a guest role or a visit, anytime."

MSNBC host now guarded by 7-second delay

NEW YORK (AP)—After an F-bomb dropped on "Morning Joe," the MSNBC news-talk show has installed an early-warning system.

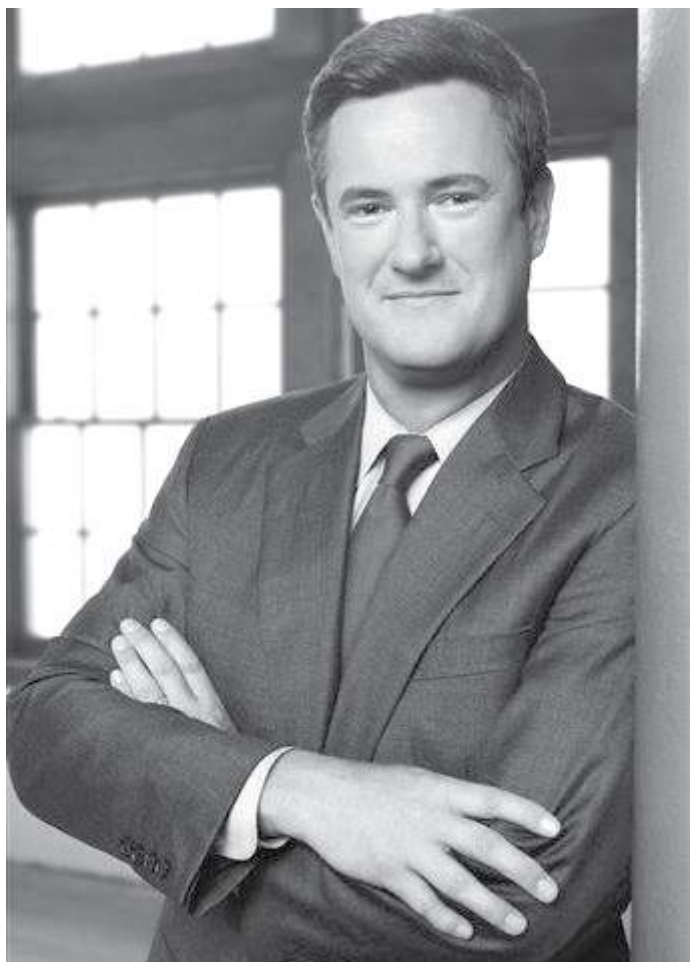
A seven-second delay was added with Tuesday's broadcast, to protect against future eruptions such as that of host Joe Scarborough, who seemed to surprise even himself with his verboten utterance.

Scarborough slipped Monday while attempting to describe the rawboned manner of Rahm Emanuel, incoming White House chief of staff for President-elect Barack Obama.

Amid his many on-air apologies, Scarborough said, "My wife is going to kill me when I get home" and spoke of washing out his mouth with soap.

The delay will not be on any other MSNBC programming, according to spokesman Jeremy Gaines. When asked whether it had been ordered up by network brass or requested by Scarborough, Gaines said, "It was a mutual decision."

Former MSNBC morning host Don Imus aired his show with a similar delay, Gaines noted.



AP

This March 30, 2006 file photo shows MSNBC on air personality Joe Scarborough in New York.

Web site: Spears' youngest son out of the hospital

In this Sept. 7, 2008, file photo, Britney Spears poses with her awards backstage at the 2008 MTV Video Music Awards in Los Angeles.

AP

NEW YORK (AP)—Britney Spears' youngest son has been released from the hospital after being treated for some kind of reaction.

According to an update on Spears' Web site, 2-year-old Jayden James has left the Southwest Mississippi Regional Medical Center and is doing fine.

A representative for the Spears' family says Jayden was admitted Sunday after having "a reaction to something he ingested."

The hospital is near Spears' home in Kentwood, Louisiana, where the singer was reportedly staying with family. Representatives for Spears and her family didn't immediately return messages left Tuesday.

Spears and ex-husband Kevin Federline are also parents to 3-year-old Sean Preston.

'Leave It to Beaver' actor to show at the Louvre

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Eat your heart out, Eddie Haskell. Tony Dow, best known as the actor who portrayed The Beav's big brother, Wally, in the '50s TV series "Leave It to Beaver," will have one of his abstract sculptures on display at the Louvre.

Several sculptors from the Karen Lynne Gallery—including Dow—will have their works shown at the historic art museum in Paris as part of the Societe Nationale des Beaux-Arts exhibition.

"Having something shown at the Louvre is about as good as you can get," said Dow, who lives in Los Angeles, "especially when it's a juried show like this where there's a panel of judges who pick the pieces to be in the exhibition. I'm a little humbled by the whole thing but grateful nonetheless."

Dow

Dow, who has also worked as a director and visual effects producer on several TV shows, has been painting and sculpting since he was a teenager. The 63-year-old artist's sculpture that will be shown at the Louvre from Dec. 11 to Dec. 14 is titled "Unarmed Warrior," and is a bronze figure of a woman holding a shield.

"Of course, I'm really proud of 'Leave It to Beaver' and my directing career in television," said Dow. "Those are great accomplishments. I'm really proud of them, but this is interesting because I don't think they know anything about that at the Louvre."

Woman giving men fake phone number is no lady

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: I am a licensed psychologist and the director of a small counseling center at a liberal arts college. Part of my duties include answering emergency calls from students who are in crisis.

A local coed apparently has been regularly giving out my cell phone number to young men she meets in bars whom she does not want to reject on the spot. Abby, you wouldn't believe the calls and text messages I receive at all hours of the day and night. I hear a lot in my line of work, yet some of these calls have made me blush!

Not only is this an inconvenience for me, but it would create a difficult situation for someone in a real crisis who can't get through to me because my phone is tied up with these phone calls and text messages.

Ladies, young and old alike: Please be honest. If you are not interested in the man—say so! You don't have to annihilate him. Just say that you enjoyed meeting him but the "spark" isn't there, and wish him luck in his dating future. Please do not give him someone else's number. That's a coward's way out, and it is extremely unbecoming. And, at the very least, you are creating an inconvenience for someone else. I know.

PHONE CALL FIELDER IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR PHONE CALL FIELDER: One would think that a person who is old enough to be looking for a good time in an establishment that serves liquor would also be mature enough to charmingly discourage unwanted attention. However, because the situation you have described happens frequently, I am printing your letter.

I agree that giving someone a wrong phone number is cowardly. I have heard from many men who have told me that if a woman isn't interested, she should be direct about it. Believe it or not, the honesty will be appreciated.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Thanksgiving will be here soon, and I hope you will help me spread a timely message.

Each year the media cheapens the holiday by referring to it as Turkey Day instead of Thanksgiving. Please remind your readers that the name Turkey Day is both inaccurate and inappropriate. While I think turkeys are charming and entertaining, our family does not gather on the fourth Thursday of November to celebrate the intelligence or majesty of these remarkable birds. Instead, we try to carry on the tradition of the Pilgrims who were thankful for their bounteous blessings after surviving their first winter in the New World.

I believe the expression "Happy Turkey Day" contributes to the dumbing down of America, and that we are falling further and further away from the real meaning behind the holiday with each passing year.

Please help to remind your readers to use the correct name for this important holiday, and let's all have a Happy Thanksgiving. Thanks for the opportunity to vent.

MARK M. IN TAMPA, FLA.

DEAR MARK M.: I agree that it's important not to forget the true meaning of our national holidays. But perhaps the reason so many members of the media—and others—refer to Thanksgiving as "turkey day" is because it's the time we allow ourselves to "gobble, gobble, gobble."

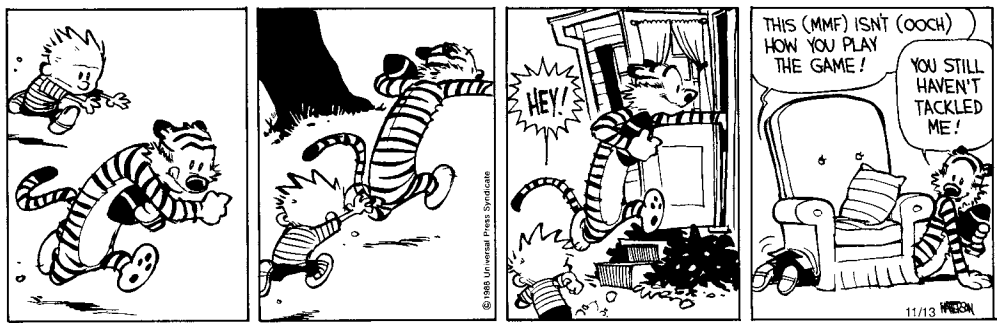
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis

NO, MOM, LIZ AND I ARE JUST DATING...
NO, NO BARN DANCES YET...
YES, I KNOW WHAT GOES ON AT THOSE BARN DANCES...
FARM CONFIDENTIAL
JIM DAVIS 11-13
www.garfield.com
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Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW FAST THIS COMPUTER IS.
I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW FAST THIS COMPUTER IS.
IT'S LIKE IT FINISHES MY THOUGHTS EVEN BEFORE I THINK THEM.
IT'S LIKE IT FINISHES MY THOUGHTS EVEN BEFORE I THINK THEM.
WELCOME TO THE 21ST CENTURY, DAD.
THAT REMINDS ME— SHOULDN'T IT BE CALLED "21ST CENTURY FOX"?
THAT REMINDS ME...
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The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

YOUR PLACE OR MINE?
MY PLACE IS BEING SPRAYED FOR PESTS.
I'LL GO TO YOUR PLACE AND YOU GO TO MINE.
Glenn McCoy/dist. by Universal Press Syndicate
2008

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Ring out
5 Spud's buds
9 Crony
12 Malaria symptom
13 Freebie
14 Latin 101 word
15 It opens in the fall
17 Tier
18 Slowly
19 Out of dreamland
21 "People" competitor
22 Bob Woodward book
24 Put one over on
27 Foundation
28 Swindle
31 Historic time
32 Lubricant
33 Witness
34 Pink-slip
36 Exist
37 Nasty
38 Trophy, e.g.
40 Familiar greeting
41 Shaggy hairdos
43 Panda food
47 E.T.'s craft
48 Supreme
51 — Lanka
52 Object of devotion
53 Blue matter
54 Turf
55 Yield
56 Lhasa — (dog)

DOWN
1 One of the Three Bears
2 "Zounds!"
3 Emanation
4 Group of teams
5 Reverberate
6 Thee
7 Ambulance VIP
8 Lance
9 Eden
10 Beyond control
11 Actor Rob
16 Opposite of "trans-"
20 Symbol of intrigue
22 Bizarre
23 Not working
24 Updated "groovy"
25 Spoon-bender Geller
26 Overly fearful
27 Piglets' pop
29 Meadow
30 Barbie's friend
35 Ram's mate
37 Champagne + O.J.
39 Jellied entree
40 Scenery chewer
41 Disarrange
42 Frizzy do
43 Curse
44 Dislodge
45 Responsibility
46 "Beetle Bailey" dog
49 Expert
50 Scepter

Solution time: 25 mins.

S	A	F	E	■	G	E	L	■	S	T	A	R
I	C	O	N	■	O	L	E	■	T	H	E	E
T	H	R	E	W	O	F	F	■	E	R	O	S
S	E	E	M	E	D	■	T	A	L	E	N	T
■	■	■	Y	E	S	■	S	O	L	E	■	■
A	C	T	■	P	O	T	■	L	A	W	N	S
D	A	H	L	■	N	O	H	■	R	A	I	L
S	P	R	A	T	■	P	U	G	■	Y	A	Y
■	■	E	X	A	M	■	N	O	D	■	■	■
B	O	N	N	I	E	■	D	R	E	A	M	T
A	L	O	E	■	T	H	R	E	S	H	E	R
R	I	D	S	■	R	A	E	■	K	E	N	O
T	O	Y	S	■	O	L	D	■	S	M	U	T

Yesterday's answer 11-13

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Steve Zahn, 41; Whoopi Goldberg, 53; Chris Noth, 54; Joe Mantegna, 61

Happy Birthday: Everything will be riding on how you handle partners this year. Business and emotional connections will be on the line and, if you are too flippant, you may end up doing the work yourself. Be prepared to delegate. If you overstep your capabilities, recovery will be difficult. Your numbers are 5, 12, 14, 26, 31, 33, 49

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Turn your attention to getting things done that will help stabilize your financial position. Entertain someone who can make a difference to your goals by contributing facts, figures and documentation. Be prepared. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): A choice must be made in order to advance. Don't let a relationship you are in hold you back or make you uncertain. Love is looking good but don't let it interfere with your plans. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): If you don't take care of problems as they arise, you will be too bogged down by the end of the day to resolve anything. Emotional issues will leave you feeling drained and uncertain about your future. Say no to takers and users. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Secretive action will keep everyone wondering what you are going to do next and aid you in getting much accomplished without interference. Don't seek recognition just yet. Once you have completed what you want to do, the rewards will be yours. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Slow down and let everyone else go first. Once show-and-tell is over, you will know exactly where you stand. You may want to keep things a secret for now and surprise everyone with your plans when you are closer to the finish line. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): If you want to be popular, now is the time to do your thing and offer what you can. You can talk your way into anything and obtain what you feel is rightfully yours. Someone from your past can help you obtain your goals. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You have to make changes if you want things to settle down. A new look at the way you do a job will give you insight into the person you are working for. There are gains to be made but only if you are willing to go the distance. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Give yourself a chance to think. You'll have too many choices and, if you let your emotions rule, you are likely to make a poor decision. Make sure you have all the information you require. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Be careful how you handle others. Someone close to you will be able to influence your future. A stranger's actions will give you insight as to what you must do and how, in order to bypass anyone trying to stand in your way. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't sit still when there is so much to do that can catapult you to the top. Surround yourself with team players. The more synergy you have with everyone around you, the less chance of a mistake being made. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't get involved in a heated discussion. A disappointment will leave you feeling left out. Step outside your situation and view what's been happening. Back up and start over. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Money, a settlement or legal contract will be up for grabs, so be ready to take part. Greater financial freedom is apparent if you play your cards right. Tie up loose ends and stabilize an old partnership. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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Birthday Baby: You are intense, fearless and willing to go the distance. You are an advisor, a loyal friend and a great companion. You are honest and giving and have integrity and compassion.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

							5	
8					7			1
1		9					8	
	4		9	5				
6				4				8
				7	8		2	
	2					3		5
9			6					4
	5							

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/13

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	6	2	1	9	4	7	5	3
7	1	4	5	2	3	6	8	9
3	9	5	7	6	8	4	2	1
2	4	9	8	1	6	3	7	5
6	7	8	2	3	5	1	9	4
5	3	1	4	7	9	2	6	8
9	2	3	6	5	1	8	4	7
4	5	7	3	8	2	9	1	6
1	8	6	9	4	7	5	3	2

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/12

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

PROTECTING THE CONSTITUTION **Solution: 8 letters**

D	N	E	F	E	D	(H)	(T)	(A)	(O)	B	A	S	E	S
D	S	S	E	N	R	I	A	F	M	H	E	T	F	N
S	R	T	S	J	U	S	T	I	C	E	H	U	O	E
E	N	A	C	T	M	E	N	T	T	I	N	I	U	Z
U	T	B	O	O	N	F	X	N	C	D	T	D	N	I
L	C	L	D	B	R	E	A	S	A	A	Y	N	D	T
A	I	I	E	E	T	R	M	M	R	C	S	O	A	I
V	L	S	E	Y	A	E	E	T	A	R	T	I	T	C
I	F	H	S	U	A	N	S	R	I	T	N	N	I	O
R	N	E	G	S	T	I	C	G	S	M	E	I	O	U
U	O	D	U	A	N	O	H	E	O	E	M	P	N	N
L	C	R	L	I	M	T	O	U	C	H	U	O	R	T
E	E	S	M	E	S	L	A	E	D	I	C	S	C	R
S	I	D	D	E	F	I	N	I	T	I	O	N	S	Y
L	A	I	C	I	D	U	J	L	E	A	D	V	C	I

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Administration, Amend, Bases, Board, Citizens, Code, Commitments, Conflict, Country, Defend, Definition, Democracy, Documents, Enactment, Established, Ethics, Fairness, Foundation, Free, Fundamentals, Guarantees, Ideals, Issues, Judicial, Justice, Lead, Measures, Oath, Obey, Opinion, Rights, Rules, Text, Touch, Values, Voice

Yesterday's Answer: Landfills

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WHATZIT Solution:
Suspended sentence

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANKPACIFIC, LTD., Plaintiff, vs. **WILMER R. SABLAN aka WILMER RABAGO SABLAN and EMERITHA T. TORRES aka EMERITHA TAISACAN TORRES,** Defendant.	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 07-0360** **NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE OF HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Amended Order issued by the Court in this matter on October 31, 2007, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 011 G 942 containing an area of 917 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 011 G 18, dated December 03, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 93-4286, dated December 09, 1993, the description herein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on 1st, December, 2008, at the hour of 3:00p.m., at Carlsmith Building, Isa Drive, Capitol Hill, P.O. Box 5241, Saipan, MP 96950-5241. The sale will be opened to general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED: Saipan, MP, November 5, 2008.

/s/ **VINCENT J. SEMAN**
Attorneys for Plaintiff

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Saipan Tribune

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Type of Passport: China
Date of Birth: April 20, 1972
If found, please call 483-8188.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

SENTENCE

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Find today's solution in this section

Wanted

ONE (1) EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

The *Saipan Tribune* is in urgent need of a full-time editorial assistant. Applicants should have the following qualifications:

- At least high school graduate or GED equivalent
- Fast and accurate typing skills
- Knows how to use a computer
- Familiar with Microsoft Word and Excel
- Can work with minimal supervision
- Ability to work in a fast-paced, deadline-oriented environment
- Can work on weekends and holidays
- Experience with Macintosh an advantage
- Local hires only

Applicants may drop off their applications and resume at the HR Department, located on the second floor of the CIC Centre, Garapan, Beach Road (inside the *Saipan Tribune* offices), or they may e-mail applications to editor@saipantribune.com. Deadline for submission: Nov. 20, 2008.

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• 5-Liner	**$35**
• 3-Liner with picture	**$45**
• 5-Liner with picture	**$55**

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday And Sunday Issues:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Giants ace Lincecum wins NL Cy Young Award

NEW YORK (AP)—TimLincecum was a big winner on a woeful team, which fit him perfectly. Firing 97 mph fastballs from his miniature frame, the National League Cy Young Award recipient is an anomaly in almost every way. Lincecum joined Mike McCormick (1967) as the only San Francisco Giants to win the Cy Young, taking home pitching's highest honor by a comfortable margin Tuesday following his second major league season.

"I was definitely surprised. I thought it was going to be a lot closer," Lincecum said.

The slender kid with the whirling windup received 23 of 32 first-place votes and 137 points in balloting by the Baseball Writers' Association of America. Brandon Webb of the Arizona Diamondbacks got four first-place votes and finished second with 73 points.

Listed at 5-foot-11 and 160 pounds, tiny by today's standards for a big league pitcher, Lincecum defied detractors—and the laws of physics—by overpowering one hulking slugger after another.

"I don't remember anybody in my time who had that style of pitching, who put that kind of torque on his body," McCormick said on a Giants conference call. "I think that article in Sports Illustrated that called him a freak probably sums it up."

Lincecum was 18-5 with a 2.62 ERA and a major league-best 265 strikeouts, remarkable numbers for a fourth-place club that finished 72-90.

AP

San Francisco Giants pitcher Tim Lincecum, this year's National League Cy Young Award winner, laughs while talking about his many nicknames during a news conference at AT&T Park in San Francisco, Tuesday, Nov. 11, 2008.

In fact, Steve Carlton was the lone Cy Young winner to pitch for a team that was worse. The Hall of Famer was an incredible 27-10 with a 1.97 ERA for the 1972 Philadelphia Phillies, who went 59-97.

Lincecum led the NL in winning percentage (.783), ranked second in ERA and was third with 227 innings. The 24-year-old right-hander made his first All-Star squad, but an illness prevented him from appearing in the July 15 game at Yankee Stadium.

"People have been doubting me my whole life," he said. "I don't let them bring me down."

New York Mets ace Johan Santana, who led the league in ERA (2.53) and innings (234 1-3), also garnered four first-place votes and came in third.

The other first-place vote went to Milwaukee lefty CC Sabathia, last year's AL winner who was traded by Cleveland into the National League on July 7. He went 11-2 with a 1.65 ERA and seven complete games in 17 starts for the Brewers, pitching them to their first playoff berth since 1982.

"I definitely thought he was in fair contention," Lincecum said.

Sabathia came in fifth. Brad Lidge, the star closer who had a perfect season for the World Series champion Philadelphia Phillies, was fourth.

Webb, the NL winner in 2006, was runner-up for the second consecutive season after going 22-7 with a 3.30 ERA in 226 2-3 innings.

"In Obama-like fashion, it wasn't close," Giants general manager Brian Sabean said.

The baby-faced Lincecum, nicknamed "Franchise," is certainly an aberration. He eats junk food before starts and doesn't ice his arm. When he was called up from the minors in May 2007, ballpark security workers in San Francisco thought he was a bat boy.

Late this season, some teammates even asked for his autograph—including veteran catcher Bengie Molina.

The Giants held a news conference for Lincecum after he won Tuesday and it drew more media than any club event since Barry Bonds' home run chase in 2007.

"It sent a chill through me a little bit. I got a little choked up," pitching coach Dave Righetti said about hearing the news. "I just spent a week in New York and they didn't even know his name, hardly."

Drafted 10th overall out of Washington in 2006, Lincecum said his major league experience last year helped him succeed this season. He also credited an improved changeup, which he threw more often after finding a comfortable grip.

"I've always taken pride in trying to strike people out," he said. "That's the one (statistic) that kind of gets me fired up."

Lincecum said he was on his couch watching NFL highlights with his roommate when he got the Cy Young call. One of the first people he phoned was San Francisco closer Brian Wilson.

"Me and Tim talked about this a lot. I always pumped him up and said, 'Dude, you know you're going to win the Cy Young?'" Wilson said in a telephone interview. "This was before the season. He had the best fastball, best changeup and best curveball. He pretty much dominated every start. We would set goals and I would say, `I bet you won't strike out 10 and not walk anybody,' and he'd strike out 12. Each game he pitched he kept adding up the tally. Soon, America was going to know he was the best."

McCormick won in the first year the BBWAA honored a pitcher in each league. From 1956-66, only one Cy Young Award was presented for both leagues.

This year's American League winner will be announced Thursday, with Cleveland lefty Cliff Lee a heavy favorite. AL and NL Managers of the Year are Wednesday.

MLB BRIEFS

Agent: Hoffman era likely over in San Diego

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Trevor Hoffman's record-setting run as San Diego Padres closer is almost certainly over after the team withdrew its contract offer for 2009. Hoffman, baseball's career saves leader and the face of the franchise since Tony Gwynn retired following the 2001 season, was upset with the abrupt, impersonal way the club ended contract talks, agent Rick Thurman said Tuesday. Thurman doubts negotiations can be rekindled. "I would say because of the way it was handled, it appears as though he's done as a Padre," Thurman said. Hoffman's appearances out of the bullpen were announced by the ominous gongs from AC/DC's "Hells Bells." The Padres apparently rang out the Hoffman era when they pulled their offer of $4 million for 2009 and a $4 million club option for 2010. Thurman said the club also refused the closer's request for a meeting with top executives, who appear to be slashing salary because of owner John Moores' difficult divorce. The 41-year-old Hoffman has 554 career saves. He was in Puerto Rico on a Nike tour and wasn't available for comment, Thurman said.

A's, Rockies close to completing Holliday trade

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Matt Holliday's trade to the Oakland Athletics was nearly completed Tuesday and an announcement was expected soon. The Colorado Rockies were set to send Holliday to the A's for reliever Huston Street, left-hander Greg Smith and outfielder Carlos Gonzalez. The teams were reviewing the players' physicals and an announcement was anticipated early Wednesday, two people with knowledge of the discussions said. Both spoke on condition of anonymity because the trade wasn't finalized. Holliday was in the Bay Area on Tuesday to meet with A's officials and be examined. The star outfielder is due to make $13.5 million next season and then will be eligible to become a free agent. Runner-up for the NL MVP award last year, the 28-year-old Holliday would provide the big bat in the middle of Oakland's lineup that general manager Billy Beane was hoping to land this offseason. Whether the A's keep him is anybody's guess. The 2007 NL championship series MVP, Holliday would be a major acquisition for a club accustomed to losing star players to big-spending teams. Holliday has 128 homers and 483 RBIs in five big league seasons. His best year was 2007, when he won the NL batting title with a .340 average. He also had 36 homers and a league-best 137 RBIs in helping the Rockies reach the World Series. He finished second to Philadelphia shortstop Jimmy Rollins for NL MVP.

Indians pitcher, broadcaster Herb Score dies

CLEVELAND (AP)—Herb Score, the Cleveland Indians pitcher and former broadcaster whose promise on the mound was shattered by a line drive, died Tuesday. He was 75.

Score died at his home in Rocky River, Ohio, the team said in a statement. He had been in a wheelchair since suffering a stroke in 2002, four years after he was seriously injured in a car accident.

A hard-throwing left-hander with a big fastball and big heart, Score pitched for the Indians from 1955-59. He was named the American League Rookie of the Year in 1955 after going 16-10. He went 20-9 in 1956 and was twice named to the All-Star team.

However, Score's career took a sad and nearly tragic turn on May 7, 1957, when Gil McDougald of the New York Yankees lined a ball off Score's right eye, breaking his nose and a number of bones in his face. As Score lay fallen on the field covered in blood, the public address announcer asked the crowd at Municipal Stadium, "If there is a doctor in the stands, will he please report to the playing field."

Fearful of being hit again, Score changed his pitching motion, with less than favorable results. After two losing seasons in Cleveland he pitched parts of three seasons with the Chicago White Sox. He never won more than nine games after the injury and retired in 1962 with a 55-46 record and 837 strikeouts in 858-plus innings.

"Herb Score, who was signed by the same scout Cy Slapnicka as I was, would've been just as good if not better than Sandy Koufax if it wouldn't have been for his injury to his eye," Hall of Fame pitcher Bob Feller said. "And Sandy Koufax was the best pitcher I ever saw in my lifetime. Herb was a very dear friend of mine."

Not long after ending his playing career, Score began a second one in baseball when he joined the Indians' TV broadcast team in 1964. He moved to radio in 1968.

A native of Rosedale, N.Y., his deep voice and thick New York accent became a fixture for generations of Indians fans. He retired from broadcasting after the 1997 season, his 34th in the booth.

NFL BRIEFS

McAlister, Landry on injured reserve

OWINGS MILLS, Md. (AP)—The Baltimore Ravens placed cornerback Chris McAlister and strong safety Dawan Landry on injured reserve, ending their seasons. McAlister underwent surgery Monday to repair his posterior cruciate ligament and cartilage damage on his right knee in Coral Gables, Fla. McAlister, who leads the Ravens with three interceptions, has had problems with the knee dating to last season. Landry is still experiencing tingling sensations in his neck after sustaining a spinal cord concussion against the Cleveland Browns in the third game of the season. Landry was carted off the field after a collision with Browns running back Jamal Lewis, where Lewis' knee struck the crown of Landry's helmet. The Ravens have put 16 players on IR this season, the highest total in the AFC North.

Tom Brady back at work in Patriots training room

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)—Tom Brady is back in Foxborough working out in the New England Patriots training room. New England's star quarterback has undergone two surgeries on his left knee that was injured in the opener against Kansas City, ending his season. He has battled an infection that set in after the operation, which was done in the Los Angeles area. Brady has been in Foxborough for at least a week and his teammates are happy to see him. Running back Kevin Faulk said Tuesday that Brady is "doing good." Defensive end Jarvis Green said it was good to see Brady hanging around and smiling.

Ty Law practices with Jets, Justin Miller released

FLORHAM PARK, N.J. (AP)—Ty Law is back in a New York Jets uniform, practicing with the team after passing a physical and signing a one-year deal. Law practiced for the first time Tuesday. Coach Eric Mangini says "there's definitely a chance" Law could play Thursday against the New England Patriots. The five-time Pro Bowl cornerback agreed Monday night to rejoin the team he played with in 2005, when he had a career-high 10 interceptions. The 34-year-old spent the last two seasons with Kansas City but sat out the first 10 weeks as a free agent. He played with the Patriots during his first 10 seasons. The Jets released cornerback Justin Miller, a Pro Bowl kick returner in 2006, to make room for Law.

LeBron scores 41 as Cavs beat Bucks

CLEVELAND (AP)—LeBron James matched a season high with 41 points, finally putting Milwaukee away with a steal and soaring dunk in the final minutes, and Mo Williams scored 16 against his former team as the Cleveland Cavaliers won their fifth straight, 99-93 over the Bucks on Tuesday night.

James scored 12 in the fourth quarter and didn't come out in the second half while playing a season-best 43 minutes.

With Cleveland leading by five, James poked away a pass intended for Richard Jefferson, streaked to the other end and lifted off one step inside the foul line before smashing the ball through the hoop. Moments later, he dropped an outside jumper and then drove through the lane for a finger roll to give the Cavs an 11-point lead.

It was the third time in four games that James has scored 41.

Zydrunas Ilgauskas added 15 points and Anderson Varejao 13 with 10 rebounds for Cleveland.

Jefferson scored 19 and Luke Ridnour 17—14 in the third—to pace the Bucks, who were again without leading scorer Michael Redd. He missed his fourth straight game with a sprained right ankle. Redd tried to practice on Tuesday, but "was noticeably limping," coach Scott Skiles said. "It was clear he wasn't ready."

Williams, acquired by Cleveland in a trade this summer from Milwaukee, downplayed his first matchup against his old team saying it was "just another day."

His new teammates played like it was just another game for much of the night before closing out the Bucks, who were within 88-83 when James made his game-sealing steal and dunk.

The Cavs led by six points at half and quickly pushed their lead to 11 as Williams hit a 3-pointer and dropped two free throws to open the third quarter.

But Ridnour got hot. He hit two 3-pointers and went 5-for-5 from the field in the period as Milwaukee opened a 69-66 lead with 2:20 left. James, though, responded by making three straight outside jumpers, the last one at the horn to give Cleveland a 74-71 lead entering the fourth.

James was in China at the Beijing Olympics when the Cavaliers acquired Williams, trading forward Joe Smith and guard Damon Jones in a three-team trade with Milwaukee and Oklahoma City. Jones isn't even with the Bucks, who are allowing him to pursue other opportunities in the league.

James couldn't remember his first thought at learning of the deal, but he knew he liked it.

"I knew the type of player that he was," James said. "He has explosiveness. He took over games."

He did against the Cavs. Williams helped Milwaukee go 3-1 against Cleveland last season, averaging 26 points and nine assists in the four games.

This season, Williams has stabilized Cleveland's backcourt, given the club another scoring option and become the point guard the Cavs have coveted since James turned pro. Williams has been everything the Cavs could have hoped for.

"Even a little bit more," James said.

Nuggets 88, Bobcats 80

At Charlotte, North Carolina, Carmelo Anthony scored 18 of his 25 points in the second half, Chauncey Billups added a key three-point play late, and Denver held off Charlotte to stay unbeaten with Billups in the lineup.

After an 11-point fourth-quarter lead was sliced to 75-73, the undermanned Nuggets turned to Billups and their defense. Charlotte went six straight possessions without a point, while Billups found Nene for a thunderous dunk before Billups' driving layup and free throw on the next possession made it 80-73 with 2:56 left.

Jason Richardson scored 23 points to lead the sloppy Bobcats.

Jazz 93, 76ers 80

At Philadelphia, Carlos Boozer had 19 points and 16 rebounds and Deron Williams played for the first time this season to lead Utah past Philadelphia.

Williams had seven points and nine assists after missing the first six games because of a sprained left ankle he suffered in a preseason game Oct. 18 against Chicago.

Andre Miller scored 25 points, Andre Iguodala had 15 points and 10 rebounds and Elton Brand added 13 for the reeling Sixers, who lost their third in a row and fell to 2-5.

Spurs 92, Knicks 80

At San Antonio, Tim Duncan had 23 points, nine rebounds, and seven assists to lead San Antonio over New York in the Spurs' first game without injured guard Tony Parker.

Parker will miss about a month due to a moderate left ankle sprain. The Spurs' other standout guard, Manu Ginobili, has not played this season and isn't scheduled to be back from left ankle surgery until December.

Rookie George Hill started in place of Parker and scored a season-high 12 points.

AP
Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James (23) drives past Milwaukee Bucks' Luc Richard Mbah a Moute (12) in the second quarter of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, Nov. 11, 2008, in Cleveland.

Lakers 106, Mavericks 99

At Dallas, Trevor Ariza turned an offensive rebound into an emphatic, go-ahead dunk early in the fourth quarter and Kobe Bryant quickly stretched the lead, sending the Los Angeles Lakers to a victory over Dallas.

Ariza's basket put Los Angeles up for the first time since the opening minutes, then Bryant began stretching the lead with a one-handed rebound-dunk on the next possession. Soon after, he scored seven straight points and the Lakers held off the Mavericks down the stretch to improve to 6-0 for the first time since 2001-02, their last championship season.

Dallas' Jason Kidd got the 101st triple-double of his career with 16 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists.

Hawks 113, Bulls 108

At Chicago, Al Horford scored a career-high 27 points and grabbed 17 rebounds as Atlanta remained unbeaten through six games with a victory over Chicago.

Atlanta's start is its best since the 1997-98 Hawks won their first 11 games.

Mike Bibby added 22 points, hitting three 3-pointers in the fourth quarter to fend off a Bulls rally. The Hawks had six players in double figures, including Johnson, who finished with 17—eight below his average. He shot 4-for-16.

Rookie Derrick Rose led the Bulls with 26 points to match his career high and had a career-best 10 rebounds.

Pistons 100, Kings 92

At Sacramento, California, Allen Iverson had 30 points and nine assists to win for the first time with his new team, leading Detroit to a victory over Sacramento.

Tayshaun Prince added 26 points and 11 rebounds for the Pistons, who had lost their first two games since acquiring Iverson from Denver last week for All-Star point guard Chauncey Billups, key reserve Antonio McDyess and Cheikh Samb.

Sacramento played without its leading scorer, Kevin Martin, who is out at least a week after spraining his left ankle in a victory over Golden State on Sunday. Spencer Hawes scored 19 points for the Kings.

Warriors 113, Timberwolves 110

At Oakland, California, Stephen Jackson tied the game late in regulation and scored six of his 30 points in overtime, leading Golden State back from a poor fourth quarter to beat the hapless Minnesota.

Jackson hit a 3-pointer with 2:16 left in the extra session and the Warriors sent the Timberwolves to their sixth straight loss. Jackson's transition layin with 22.2 seconds left in regulation tied the game at 106 and Rashad McCants missed a 3-pointer from the top of the arc at the buzzer to send the game into extra time.

Al Jefferson had 25 points and 12 rebounds for Minnesota, which seemed in control when it led by 10 with 7:06 left.

Jamison: Wizards need to wake up

By MICHAEL LEE
WASHINGTON POST STAFF WRITER

As Antawn Jamison got dressed following the Washington Wizards' 106-81 loss to the Orlando Magic on Saturday, someone reminded him that the Wizards started last season 0-5 and that the team has gotten off to slow starts the past three seasons. The comment was meant to put Jamison at ease. Instead, it fired him up.

"Yeah," Jamison said, "but I'm sick of seeing this."

The Wizards, the NBA's only winless team, have made a habit of treating the start of the season the way a late-night partier treats an early morning wakeup call; trying to sneak in some extra sleep before they finally are forced to get up and scramble.

The constant repetition is becoming a tired act for Jamison, who said he was frustrated with the team's lack of desperation against the Magic.

"The makeup of the locker room, the environment of the locker room needs to change," Jamison said. "I'm not saying that it's almost like acceptable, but guys are not upset. Guys are not hurting. This is your job. It's all about representing what's on your chest and doing it the right way. When you don't do your job and don't represent the right way, it should hurt."

The reasons for the groggy starts in past seasons have varied. The Wizards began 12-18 three seasons ago while Coach Eddie Jordan figured out how to incorporate Caron Butler. They stumbled to a 4-9 start when DeShawn Stevenson joined the team two seasons ago. And last season they went 0-5 adjusting to a wobbly Gilbert Arenas and assistant coach Randy Ayers' new defensive system.

But the Wizards' ability to flirt with disaster may have also become a crutch. Getting out of their predicament might be harder this time, with so many obstacles standing in front of them.

They are dealing with injuries to Arenas, Brendan Haywood and Antonio Daniels, who missed the game against Orlando with a sore right knee. Daniels will be examined today to determine the severity of his injury. The Wizards play Utah on Wednesday, and Jamison said, "It's pretty much a must-win six games into the season."

The Wizards also are playing like a team that was selected for a random pickup game, not one with a core group that has practically been together for the past two seasons. They have been sluggish and often looked confused offensively, averaging just 97.4 points. And they have been horrid defensively, ranking at the bottom of the league in opponents' scoring average (108.8 points) and opponents' field goal percentage (50.2).

"We've got a lot we've got to work on," center Etan Thomas said. "We're not going in panic mode. We don't have guys that are going to give up. Team morale is not going to go down."

Teams aren't going to let up on a physically beat-down team, especially with the Wizards' ability to make the playoffs with Arenas missing most of last season.

"The last couple of years, they've really had injury problems and it's hurt them," Magic Coach Stan Van Gundy said, "but the thing you know about them, they're always going to be really competitive."

That had been the case before Saturday, when the Magic nearly matched the Wizards' total margin of defeat in their first four games combined (32 points), leading by 29 points late in the third period. With a white bandage covering the gash on his left eye following a first-half collision with Orlando's Mickael Pietrus, Butler has become the visual symbol of the Wizards' early troubles. The knockdown left Butler with a severe headache after the game, and he's also growing increasingly impatient.

"I'm willing to do whatever it takes, whether it's go get 20, 30 rebounds, whether it's put up the points or be a playmaker for the most part," Butler said. "But my blood pressure's building, and it's only so much longer I can wait. You don't want to take too much on yourself, but at the same time, you want the results."

Jamison said as one of the leaders of the team, he'll have to deliver the wake-up call if his teammates haven't gotten it yet. "I always find a way to get it done. It's going to happen," Jamison said. "I'm confident we can get it going, but I don't want to wait 10, 15 games into the season to get it going and you're putting too much pressure to win every game placed in front of you. The sense of urgency is here."

Freedom Air soars to third win

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune
REPORTER

Freedom Air cruised to its third win in as many games in the Budweiser 2008 Inter-Government/Business Softball League after blanking Law & Order, 9-0, Monday night at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

The victory put Freedom Air to solo first place in the men's division, while the loss dropped Law & Order to third place absorbing its first loss in three matches.

Freedom Air and Law & Order were in a six-way tie for the lead last week with identical 2-0 records before leftfielder Shane Yamada piloted Freedom Air to the solo No. 1 spot.

Yamada connected on a two-run homer at the bottom of the second inning, whil Roque Camacho and Reno Celis went 2-for-3 at-bat and made two runs apiece to lift Freedom Air to an easy win.

Camacho pitched in no relief for Freedom Air, allowing seven hits and walking three.

Law & Order struggled at-bat, going 8-for-26 for a batting average of .308. Freedom Air had a decent job at the plate hitting 14-for-34 for an average of .412.

Law & Order's Derek Sasamoto, who blasted a grand slam in their previous game, was only 1-for-2 at-bat, as Freedom Air's defense limited its foes' trip at the plate. Only leftfielder Sylvia Ada made its three times at-bat, but was only 1-for-3.

Sasamoto had a chance to give Law & Order its first run at the bottom of the second when he reached third base. With two outs and Sasamoto on third and Manny Tenorio on second, catcher Daniel Joab stepped up to the plate.

Joab hit a grounder toward the rightfield, but Freedom Air first baseman Roy Celis caught the ball for the third out.

In the other men's division game, the Public School System broke into the win column after whipping Commonwealth Utilities Corp., 7-1.

PSS lost its first two games before beating CUC, which tied its foe in fifth place with identical 1-2 slates.

A seven-run top of the fifth anchored by Jessie Taisacan's two-run single allowed PSS to move out of slump. Pitcher John Terlaje, who was 0-for-2 in his previous trips at-bat, was also on target in that inning making a two-run triple.

CUC shut out PSS in the first four innings and led at 1-0 before the latter found its marks in the fifth inning.

Second baseman Ton Norita scored CUC's lone run at the bottom of the second inning on a PSS error.

In the women's division, Northern Marianas College reclaimed the top spot after edging Finance, 11-8.

NMC gained its second win in as many games, moving back to the No. 1 position and taking over DCCA's place. DCCA holds a 2-1 slate. Finance after winning its debut had dropped its last two games.

Shortstop Pauline Camacho went perfect at-bat for NMC going 4-for-4, scoring two runs and making four RBIs. Her biggest contribution came at the top of the fourth inning when she connected on a three-run triple.

Centerfielder Liz Lebria led Finance's losing cause, hitting 4-for-4, including a two-run single at the bottom of the second inning.

Fil-Taga November Ace set this Sunday

The Fil-Taga Golfers Association will hold its November Ace of the Month Tournament this Sunday, Nov. 16, at the Marianas Golf and Country Club in Marpi.

According to tournament director Manny Po, show time is set at 11am with tee-off time scheduled 30 minutes later at 11:30am.

Ted Malaran will donate four turkeys for nearest to the pin in the par-3 holes in commemoration of Thanksgiving. In addition, the Top 16 players will get to take home a whole chicken each.

Established in 1993, Fil-Taga's tournaments operate under a computer-controlled handicap system that creates parity among players in the A and B Flights.

A Fil-Taga Ace of the Month champion is crowned monthly. Regular tournaments are scheduled once a month, normally every third Sunday. Green fees are in the $35 to $40 price range for most tournaments.

Its 2008-2009 set of officers are led by president Mike Cruz, vice president Jhun Calma, secretary Manny Po, treasurer Arnaldo Guban, and board of directors Fr. Manny Corcuera , Jhun Dela Cruz, Ted Malaran, Gil Faller, Rey Ferraz, Greg De Torres, Rene Batalliones, Nestor Siruelo, and George Sablan. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

ACME

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when it swept the MHS Peers, 21-16, 21-15.

In the playoffs, the team to win the first two sets does not need to play the third set. In the regular season, a third set was required regardless of the results of the first two sets for rankings purposes.

Acme Roofing and Thai One On will duel for the first finals seat today at 5:30pm.

The other semis pairing will feature Karakuchi colliding with Enyophace at 6:30pm.

Karakuchi secured the third semis slot after pulling off a come-from-behind win in the deciding third set.

Karakuchi drew first blood, taking the opening set, 21-14, but Kimoichi forced a third set after prevailing in the second set, 21-18.

In the third set, Kimochi still had the momentum taking a 16-11 lead. But Karakuchi recovered behind Rob Epley's impressive service game, Marino Pungilung and Carie Schuler's hustle play, and Kirk Schuler's tricky hits on the net.

Karakuchi took the third semis slot after a 21-17 victory in the third set.

Enyophace was off to a hot start winning the first set, 21-11. But the MHS Oakies refused to give up and eked out a 21-18 victory in the second set to keep it semis bid alive.

In the third set, Enyophace ended the MHS Oakies campaign in the fall league with the former cruising to a 21-9 triumph.

Winners of tonight's semis matches will duel for the title at 7:30pm.

FALL

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time of financial difficulties only shows that the company is committed to help every member of the sports community in any possible way it can," Race said.

Tan Holdings donated glass trophies for the Fall Classic and hosted the awards banquet at Fiesta.

Lynn Knight, vice president for corporate affairs for Tan Holdings, was at the awards rites to hand trophies to the top two finishers in the boys and girls' 10-and-under, 14-and-under, and 18-and-under age group competitions,

Knight assured NMITA that Tan Holdings is committed to supporting the Fall Classic tournament next year and vowed to help make the event bigger in 2009.

This year's Fall Classic featured a record number of 62 participants and this mark was another thing Race and NMITA celebrated Tuesday night.

"It was the biggest Fall Classic event, and perhaps the biggest junior tournament here. We had 110 matches, many tough matches, especially in the boys 10-and-under and 14-and-under," said Race.

"You see kids and their parents patiently waiting for the matches staying almost the whole day at AMP. I am delighted to see this kind of commitment from these young players and their supportive parents," he added.

Race said another thing to celebrate for was having new participants or those moving up to a higher age group challenged the tournament's favorites and players who had played in international events.

Chris Cajigan, who played in the 14-and-under division after ruling the 10-and-under last season, gave NPQ veteran Rafael Jones a run for his money in the semifinals before bowing, 9-7. Jones eventually lost to rival Christian Miller in the finals.

The diminutive Neghar Rastguiy, who is only 10 years old, competed in the 14-and-under and made it into the finals before losing to Ilia Corella, 8-5.

Jodel Fernandez, who has been playing for less than a year, was runner-up to Thea Minor in the girls' 18-and-under division.

Despite lacking in actual tournaments, Tinian-based Benjie Decena still had the winning form that allowed him to beat Woo Suk Chang in the finals of the boys' 18-and-under.

Then there was the 16-field boys' 10-and-under division which had returning Kennedy Isuka as the last man standing, surviving vastly improved Dylan Ackerman in the finals.

Finally, in the girls' 10-and-under division, Tammy Ackerman assured the Ackermans two glass trophies for the night when she topped Emily Jones in the finals

"Seeing how these kids play, win or lose, in finals or in consolation matches, was enough to celebrate the bright future ahead for CNMI junior tennis," Race said in his closing remarks.

NMIFA

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The Southern Group has Dandan Elementary School A and B, Saipan Community School, William S. Reyes School, Koblerville Elementary School, San Vicente Elementary School, San Antonio Elementary School, and Oleai Elementary School.

The league is midway on its regular season and is expected to enter the playoff round next month. The top two teams in each group will advance to the playoffs.

The U12 league was created through the efforts of NMIFA, the Public Schools System, and several private schools on Saipan.

On- and off-island companies, and individuals donated equipment package in September to allow schools to get ready for the league.

ISAIAH

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Two other Isaiah players finished in double figures with Dindo Pablo and James Wabinga chipping in 12 apiece.

Casabuena paced Jeremiah with 17 points, while Dimaano contributed 16.

Jeremiah absorbed its second loss in three matches to remain in third place in the team standings.

Daniel is leading the league with a 3-0 record, while Ezekiel is at the bottom of the field with a dismal 0-4 slate.

Isaiah 81 – Tabora 42, Pablo 12, Wabinga 12, Mendoza 7, Ramos 4, Tamayo 4, Licop 2.

Jeremiah 69 – Casabuena 17, Dimaano 16, Buenabajo 8, Andales 8, Ong 8, Olivos 6, Lasaga 3, McAskell 2.

Scoring by halves: 41-32, 81-69.

Eagle Ray 7K race this Saturday

Saipan Swim Club has announced that there will be three activities left in its calendar of events for 2008.

The first one will take place this Saturday with SSC hosting the Eagle Ray 7K Race from PauPau Beach to Managaha Island.

The event was dubbed Eagle Ray 7K Ocean Swim because of the prevalence of eagle rays in the route of the swim. The area is being called Eagle Ray City by locals and tourists alike.

Early this year, 15 swimmers, retraced the path 24 others took in the 2007 edition of the event.

Young tanker Michael Moran topped the re-race in January this year, while Cooper Graf finished ahead of 23 other swimmers in the 2007 race in December.

After the open water swim this week, SSC will bring action back to the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi when it holds the 2008 All Schools Swimming Championships on Nov. 22.

The annual swim meet will be feature students both from the private and public schools on Saipan.

Whispering Palms is this year's defending champion in the elementary division, collecting 225 points from last season's meet. Saipan Community School was second with 150 points, edging third placer Saipan International School by only a point.

MARK RABAGO
Eli Torgeson in a file photo from one of the open water swims earlier this year. The Saipan Swim Club will hold its Eagle Ray 7K Race from PauPau Beach to Managaha Island this Saturday.

The SIS Geckos dominated the junior and high school divisions, finishing ahead of Marianas High School, Ladera International School, Grace Christian Academy, and SCS.

SSC will conclude the 2008 season with the Annual Jingle Bell Run on Dec. 10. The race will start from Garapan Fishing Base to Susupe, near the former AJ's Restaurant.

For more information about the three events, contact SSC coach Michael Blasberg via email at MrB@CNMIBio.com or at mblasberg@gmail.com. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	7	1	.875	_
New York	4	3	.571	2 1/2
Toronto	4	3	.571	2 1/2
New Jersey	2	4	.333	4
Philadelphia	2	5	.286	4 1/2

Southeast Division

Atlanta	6	0	1.000	_
Miami	4	3	.571	2 1/2
Orlando	4	3	.571	2 1/2
Charlotte	2	5	.286	4 1/2
Washington	0	5	.000	5 1/2

Central Division

Cleveland	6	2	.750	_
Detroit	5	2	.714	1/2
Indiana	3	3	.500	2
Chicago	3	5	.375	3
Milwaukee	3	5	.375	3

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

New Orleans	4	2	.667	_
Houston	4	3	.571	1/2
Memphis	3	5	.375	2
San Antonio	2	4	.333	2
Dallas	2	5	.286	2 1/2

Northwest Division

Utah	6	1	.857	_
Denver	4	3	.571	2
Portland	4	3	.571	2
Minnesota	1	6	.143	5
Oklahoma City	1	6	.143	5

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	6	0	1.000	_
Phoenix	6	2	.750	1
Golden State	3	5	.375	4
Sacramento	3	5	.375	4
L.A. Clippers	1	6	.143	5 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Utah 93, Philadelphia 80
Cleveland 99, Milwaukee 93
Denver 88, Charlotte 80
Atlanta 113, Chicago 108
San Antonio 92, New York 80
L.A. Lakers 106, Dallas 99
Detroit 100, Sacramento 92
Golden State 113, Minnesota 110, OT

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2008 Budweiser BASA Softball League

Photos by
ROSELYN MONROYO

Above left, runner-up Hitters pose for a group photo during the award ceremony for the 2008 BASA Men's and Women's Softball League Sunday at the Dandan Elementary School Ballfield.

Above, Man Amigos' Vinny Sablan with his Coach of the Year trophy.

Left, Brotherhood's Bill Limes, left, won the Manager of the Year Award. Joining him in the photo are BASA officials' Mike Towai, center, and Brian Adelbai.

Above, members of men's runner-up Man Amigos pose with their trophy.

Right, Brotherhood's Jerry Ayuyu, left, is all smiles as he receives his home run king trophy from a BASA umpire.

Far right, regular season MVP J.J. Laniyo, second left, poses with Rep. Ray Palacios, left, and BASA league coordinator Brian Adelbai.

Runs scored champion Julian Camacho of Brotherhood.

Finals MVP Bego Camacho of Sakudi, which defeated the Hitters in the women's title match.

Regular season MVP and doubles and triples queen Jenny Palacios of Sakudi.

Runs scored champion in the women's division Bert Camacho of Sakudi.

Freedom Air soars to third win

Freedom Air cruised to its third win in as many games in the Budweiser 2008 Inter-Government/Business Softball League after blanking Law & Order, 9-0, Monday night at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Giants ace Lincecum wins NL Cy Young Award

Tim Lincecum was a big winner on a woeful team, which fit him perfectly. Firing 97 mph fastballs from his miniature frame, the National League Cy Young Award recipient is an anomaly in almost every way.

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Acme Roofing survives scare

Advances with 3 others to semis

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

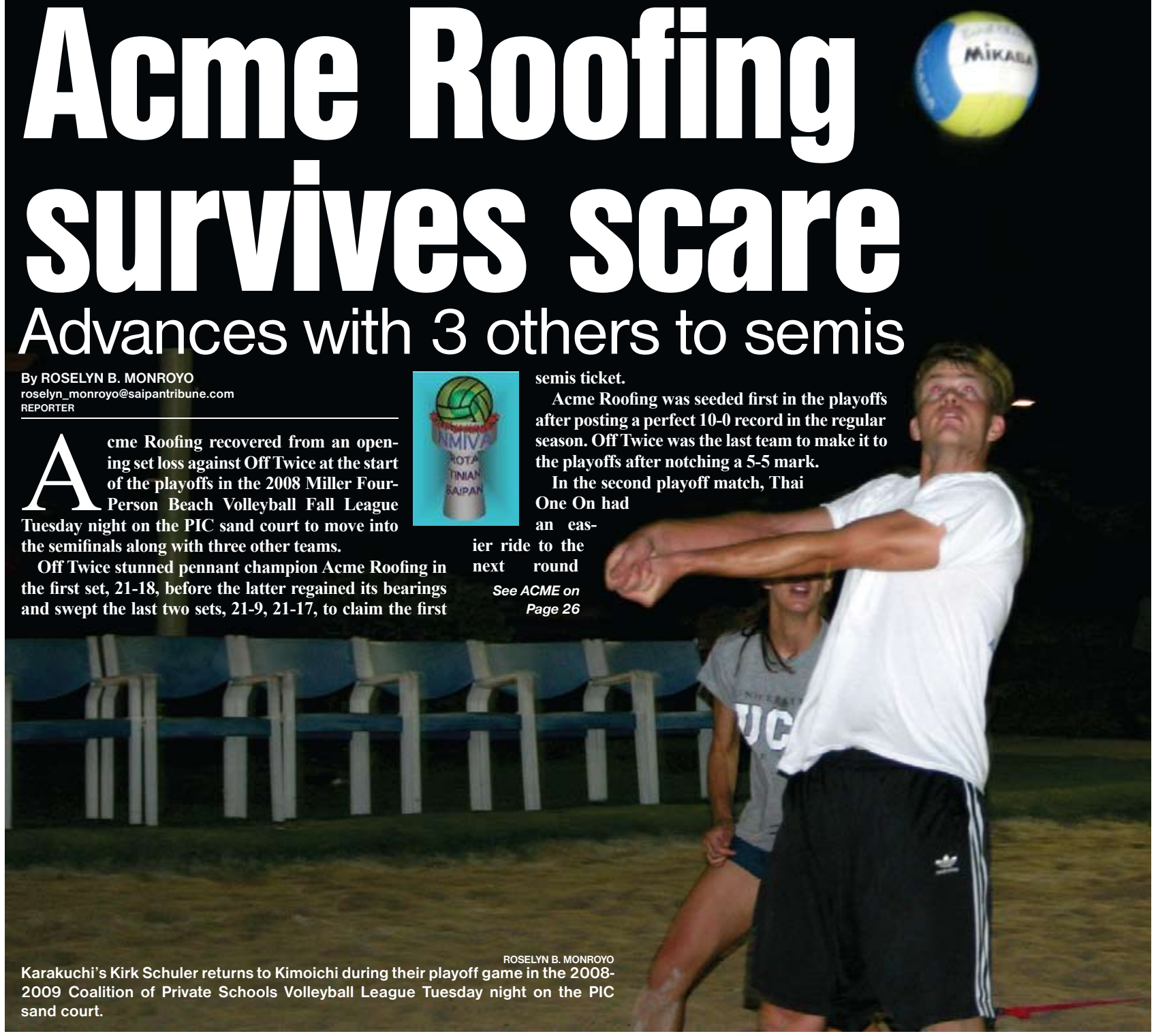
Acme Roofing recovered from an opening set loss against Off Twice at the start of the playoffs in the 2008 Miller Four-Person Beach Volleyball Fall League Tuesday night on the PIC sand court to move into the semifinals along with three other teams.

Off Twice stunned pennant champion Acme Roofing in the first set, 21-18, before the latter regained its bearings and swept the last two sets, 21-9, 21-17, to claim the first semis ticket.

Acme Roofing was seeded first in the playoffs after posting a perfect 10-0 record in the regular season. Off Twice was the last team to make it to the playoffs after notching a 5-5 mark.

In the second playoff match, Thai One On had an easier ride to the next round

See ACME on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Karakuchi's Kirk Schuler returns to Kimoichi during their playoff game in the 2008-2009 Coalition of Private Schools Volleyball League Tuesday night on the PIC sand court.

Isaiah regains form in Genesis Cup

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Isaiah returned to its winning ways whipping defending champion Jeremiah, 81-69, in the 2008 CIM-FCC Inter-Color Basketball League-3rd Genesis Cup Saturday night at the CIM-FCC Basketball Court in Gualo Rai.

Isaiah had its two-game winning streak snapped by rival Daniel, two weeks ago, 66-62. But with Jun Tabora joining its roster, Isaiah quickly recovered and vented its ire on Jeremiah.

Tabora fired a season-high 42 points in his explosive Isaiah debut anded lift his team to its third win in four games.

Tabora made his presence felt early, hitting 24 points in the first half. Isaiah's new recruit outgunned Jeremiah's Amor Casabuena in the first 20 minutes of the game, as the latter scored only 15 points.

With Tabora's guns blazing in the first half, Isaiah took a 41-32 halftime lead.

Tabora picked up where he left off in the second half, adding 18 more points.

In contrast, Casabuena was almost a no-show in the second half, making only two free throws.

Casabuena's teammates also struggled in the second half after keeping Isaiah within striking distance in the first half.

Ador Dimaano was the lone Jeremiah player to nail more than two field goals scoring six points, while the rest of the team combined for only eight points.

Tabora outscored the entire Jeremiah crew in the second half, 18-16. The hot shooting guard also outgunned his teammates, 42-39, to make a mark in his first game this season.

See ISAIAH on Page 26

Fall Classic winners feted in 'formal' banquet

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CNMI coach and tournament director Jeff Race dressed-up for the award ceremony of the 2008 Fall Classic Junior Tennis Championships Tuesday night at the Azucena Hall of Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

Race was in a blue coat and tie instead of the usual tennis outfits he wears during and after the games.

What was with the formal clothing?

"It was for the night of celebration, not only for those who won, but for all the players, for their parents, and for the CNMI junior tennis program," Race said.

The Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association had a lot to celebrate for after the Fall Classic, which was played in three days at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

First on the list was Tan Holdings Corp.'s sponsorship of the annual tournament.

"It was the first time in 10 years that a company has sponsored the Fall Classic. We know that Tan Holdings has been supporting so many sports and to add junior tennis on the list in this

See FALL on Page 26

ROSELYN MONROYO
Participants in the 2008 Fall Classic Junior Tennis Championships pose for a group photo during the awards ceremony Tuesday night at the Azucena Hall of Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

NMIFA set to hold youth football festival Saturday

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Mariana Islands Football Association will be hosting a youth football festival this Saturday at Hopwood Junior High School Field in Chalan Piao.

The youth festival is a biennial event in NMIFA's calendar and aims to gather young strikers in the Commonwealth in a friendly and pressure-free competition.

The festival is patterned after Asian Football Confederation's Grassroots and Youth Program, which holds festivals for U13 and U14 players twice a year. It encourages officials, coaches, and players towards good sportsmanship and a fair play code of behavior.

Games this Saturday will start at

SAIPAN TRIBUNE
Paire's Mickey Coleman, left, and Jhen Joyner of IFC chase the ball during last year's NMIFA Youth Football Festival at San Antonio Elementary School Field.

pering Palms, Eucon, Saipan International School, and Tanapag Elementary School.

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